

## **Our Eternal Companion**

### **John 17:24-26**

24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." NKJV

What a wonderful passage. It should bring such confidence and peace to the mind of every believer. This prayer is such a blessing to those who will know it, and this is the pinnacle of all that has gone before.

He has prayed for us, that we might be holy and kept for the powers of darkness. He has prayed that we might have His joy fulfilled in ourselves. And He has prayed for the unity of all believers.

A king might pray all these things for his people, but now He takes a giant step above all that. People often pray for us and wish us well and joy with all sincerity of heart. Even our closest friends we can count on to do those things. But Jesus, our best friend, our truest friend outshines them all.

When Jonathan, David's best friend was killed in battle, David wanted to do something for any of Jonathan's family that might be left. First by inquiry David finds that there is a son of Jonathan who has survived. This son lived in Lo Debar which means "no pasture" in the house of Machir which means "bartered or sold". There is real significance to those names.

Let's pick up the reading in 2 Sam 9:5-13

5 Then King David sent and brought him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, from Lo Debar.

You see, he had been hiding. Hiding thinking that David or some of David's friends might come looking for him. To do away with the remaining heirs of Saul.

6 Now when Mephibosheth the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, had come to David, he fell on his face and prostrated himself. Then David said, "Mephibosheth?"

He is frightened to death. You have to understand that they have come into his home, many miles away and have brought him all the way to Jerusalem to face the king. He no doubt thought that his time was up. That he too would pay for the sins of his grandfather Saul.

And he answered, "Here is your servant!"

7 So David said to him, "Do not fear, for I will surely show you kindness for Jonathan your father's sake,

David puts his fears to rest immediately. He tells him that his purpose is to bless him and not to curse him.

Also he is told that it is not anything that he has done to deserve this but it is for Jonathan, his father's sake that he will be favored by the king.

and will restore to you all the land of Saul your grandfather;

First of all David makes him a wealthy man. All that his grandfather Saul had owned was now his. Later we see that David finds an previous servant of Saul and makes him the caretaker of all this land and Mephibosheth will not need to worry about it. All he has to do is enjoy the fruit of the land.

But all this does not compare to what David does next. He has made Mephibosheth a wealthy man, and taken care of him and is family for generations to come. But David is not satisfied with that.

Here we see what a relationship David had with Jonathan. What lengths with he now go to for this cripple who can never do anything for him. Let's read on.

and you shall eat bread at my table continually."

Now let me ask, how close of a relationship do you have with those who eat at your table, every day? Do you get the significance of this. David is not just willing to do some really great things for Mephibosheth, but he wants him around, a cripple. A man that is crippled on both feet the text says. And why, just for the pleasure David would get from having the son of his closest friend at every meal. Notice the rest of the passage.

8 Then he bowed himself, and said, "What is your servant, that you should look upon such a dead dog as I?"

9 And the king called to Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given to your master's son all that belonged to Saul and to all his house. 10 You therefore, and your sons and your servants, shall work the land for him, and you shall bring in the harvest, that your master's son may have food to eat. But Mephibosheth your master's son shall eat bread at my table always." Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.

11 Then Ziba said to the king, "According to all that my lord the king has commanded his servant, so will your servant do."

"As for Mephibosheth," said the king, "he shall eat at my table like one of the king's sons." 12 Mephibosheth had a young son whose name was Micha. And all who dwelt in the house of Ziba were servants of Mephibosheth. 13 So Mephibosheth dwelt in Jerusalem, for he ate continually at the king's table. And he was lame in both his feet. NKJV

Do you understand now the significance of Jesus' prayer that we might be with Him where He is forever?

So many people have such an impersonal relationship with God. Why? Because they really do not know Him. Jesus has been telling the disciples how He desires to be with them forever.

Let us then look at this passage, let the privilege we have with Him flood over us.

- I. God has a desire to fellowship with His children.
  - A. Don't we see it clear back in the garden of Eden where God came to visit with them every evening.
  - B. We see it in Abraham, for he was called the friend of God.
  - C. And his descendants were to be a special people for God to fellowship and commune with.
  - D. And now through Jesus all this will be fulfilled.
    - 1. Matthew 26:29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." NKJV
    - 2. Luke 12:37 Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. NKJV
    - 3. John 12:26 If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. NKJV
    - 4. John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. NKJV
    - 5. Luke 23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise." NKJV
      - a. Notice that Jesus does not say, don't worry, for today you will be in paradise. But that he would be with Jesus, and folks that will be paradise.
  - E. The Apostle Paul knew this assurance.
    - 1. 2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. NKJV
      - a. Notice he doesn't use the terms we might be used to.
      - b. He does not say he will be in heaven, although that is true.
    - 2. Philippians 1:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. NKJV
      - a. I listened to a preacher years ago, I cannot recall his name, but he was a bachelor with hardly any family. He said that if he was to get cancer he would not fight it. He said I am not spending \$500,000 to stay out of heaven.
      - b. Paul had a desire to stay behind and continue the work, but he also

knew that where he was going was much better than he had here.

3. 1 Thessalonians 4:17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. NKJV

4. Php 3:20 (NKJV) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

F. Even the Psalmist knew what awaited him beyond this life.

1. Ps 16:11 (NKJV) You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2. I never will forget when my mother was in the hospital and it looked like she would not last much longer, Rev. Ogden, a man I have the highest respect for, who was her pastor, came into the room and I heard him say to her, are you going to be spending Thanksgiving in the Fathers house this year Helen. It did my heart good for her pastor to have such confidence in the verse we look at today.

G. Like Bathsheba of old said, so it is true of God's people.

1. 1Ki 10:8 (NKJV) Happy are your men and happy are these your servants, who stand continually before you and hear your wisdom!

II. This is more than just a prayer. "I will"

A. This is more than a desire, although that is how our translation puts it.

1. Jesus no longer says, "I pray" but "I will." This expression, found nowhere else, in the mouth of Jesus, is generally explained by saying that the Son thus expressed Himself, because He felt Himself on this point so fully in accordance with the Father. But this He felt in every prayer, and this unique expression must be taken in its relation to the unique character of the situation. It is the saying of a dying man: "Father, My last will is..." It is truly His testament which Christ thus deposits in His Father's hands. (F. Godet, D. D.)

2. "the form in which these words are delivered, is not so much by way of entreaty, as demand; they are a declaration of Christ's will, in which he insists on it as his right, upon the foot of his purchase, and those covenant transactions which passed between him and his Father, on the behalf of those that were given to him:" Gill

3. He is not saying I pray or I wish.

4. Rather, as the second person of the Trinity, He is expressing His

commanding will.

- B. What surety is heard in His voice.
  - 1. I will not leave you comfortless.
  - 2. I will come to you.
  - 3. I will come again to receive you.
  - 4. I will that they may be with Me.
- C. All of grace.
  - 1. Just like Mephibosheth we didn't deserve anything.
  - 2. But for Jesus sake we have a home, eternal in the heavens that fades not away and is reserved for us there.
  - 3. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me,

III. That they may be with Me and behold the glory You have given Me.

- A. 2 Cor 12:2-4 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows — 4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. NKJV
- B. All that we can be sure of is that it will be so wonderful that we will live in a state of constant amazement.

But let me ask you a question. Is that really a desire of your heart?

What would you think of a couple planning to get married who never spent any time together? And when asked them why they said well we will be spending a lot time together once we get married so we will just wait until then.

Many people who desire to spend time with Jesus in heaven, don't spend much time with Him here. Doesn't that seem a little odd?

Remember the words of the apostle Paul

2Co 3:18 (NKJV) But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2Co 3:18 (NLT) So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.