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# Unlocking The Secrets to Prayer

3 sermons that help you to pray

Dedication

TO MY WIFE SHARON WHO LOVES TO PRAY!

## CHAPTER ONE

### Unlocking the Secrets to Prayer Jn. 17:1-5

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify you,

<sup>2</sup> as you have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him.

<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

<sup>4</sup> I have glorified you on the earth. I have finished the work which you have given me to do.

<sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify me together with yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was. <sup>1</sup>

Introduction:

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<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 17:1-5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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When it comes to praying and discerning about prayer we can learn a great deal from this passage.

Jesus is in a very difficult place. He is getting ready to go to the cross for the sins of the world.

He knows that impending danger is ahead of him and that great stress is on the way. Yet He sees this opportunity as only being done for the honor and glory of God.

As he prays in this text He teaches us how to approach trials and tribulation, while living for God in difficult times.

We can identify 4 things in this text;

- We can learn how to embrace the trials of this life as events given to us by the hand of God
- We can also learn how to develop the right mind of prayer in the midst of these times.
- We can learn how to think, and to give God the praise in spite of what things look like and will be like.
- Finally, we can learn that Prayer is the preparation we all need to endure the suffering we don't want.

## I. The Masters Intercession

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify you,

Note:

The first thing I see in this passage is the Masters willingness to pray for himself and request of the father to work on His behalf.

We notice that Jesus could approach God in prayer because of Their Father-Son relationship.

- He began His prayer with the word Father and used that word three other times in this prayer (John 17:5, 21, 24) as well as “Holy Father” (v. 11) and “Righteous Father” (v. 25).
- Because of the divine relationship he had access to God
- Because of the divine relationship he had a position of favor

- Because of the divine relationship he could approach the holy place of God, with access, acceptance, approval, and authority

Application:

Only the believer's in a right relationship with the father can pray like this!

As a child of the Father we can approach the throne of Grace with confidence and assurance that He will hear us. Unbelievers cannot pray this!

We [Just like Jesus] can exercise our intercession because we have a relationship that transcends all other relationships. Unbelievers cannot pray this!

When we are in good standings with the Father, this is what a good prayer life looks like.

I am somebody because I can talk to God, and He hears me when I pray. Unbelievers cannot pray this!

Note:

The second thing we see is that Jesus declares that the Hour [*time*] has come!

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify you,

Note:

The hour in this verse is a direct statement indicating that the time to fulfill the plan of the Father has arrived.

- The divine plan of redemption that God had for humanity! [That Hour had come]
- The Time where the Son would be tested! [That Hour had come]
- The Time where he would endure the sufferings of this world! [That Hour had come]

Jesus had faced plenty of times when trouble had come, but now the actual Hour of His Trial was upon Him, and He needed the Father to do something on His behalf!

[This is why he prays this way]

Note:

In His impending trial He wanted the Father to Glorify Him! The word in the Biblical Greek language is the word *Doxazo*, it means to share in something with somebody!

Note:

- Jesus is asking here for the Father to share in this Hour! This request for glorification included *sustaining* Jesus in suffering, *accepting* His sacrifice, resurrecting Him, and restoring Him to His *previous-glory*.

Jesus is asking for His father to do something *glorious* on His behalf!

- Do something that will please Himself!
- Do something that will help me and please you!
- Do something so that you and I both are glorified!

The purpose of the request was that the Father would be glorified by the Son, that God's wisdom, power, and love might be known through Jesus.

Application:

- The believer can pray like this too!
- When the trials of this life come upon us, we can learn to *intercede for ourselves*, asking God to do something glorious on our behalf that will please Him while we suffer!
- We can learn to pray for God's glory to be seen in the midst of our struggle
- We can learn to pray for Gods perfect plan, and for His name to be glorified even in our trouble!

This is praying with wisdom, power, and love, that God might be known through our relationship with Jesus.

## II. The Masters Inspiration

<sup>2</sup> as you have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as you have given Him.

Note:

Here we see Jesus is inspired in his reflection by what God had given Him to do as His Son.

- In prayer he reminds the Father, that he gave Him what he gave nobody else!

- He gave Jesus authority! [Exousia] “*The rightful power and ability to do something on one’s behalf*”

He is the first and the only Human being to be endowed with this divine grace!

Secondly, he is the only Human being endowed with this power over all flesh!

Note:

It’s in His Prayers that He is reminded of what God had assigned to Him

- It’s in His prayers that He is reminded that this assignment has eternal ramifications
- It’s in His prayers that He is reminded that God the Father has entrusted to him the souls of mankind!

Look again:

*You have given Him authority over all flesh, that*

He should *give* eternal life to as many as you have given Him.

Note:

Here we see that Jesus has a divine and supernatural assignment and ability to GIVE AWAY SOMETHING! [ETERNAL-LIFE]

Question:

- Did you know that nobody can give you eternal life but Christ?
- Did you know that nobody else ever made such a claim!
- Nobody in History has ever claimed to be able to do this!
- Jesus declares in His Prayer to His father that he has given this “EXOUSIA” TO HIM and to Him only!

Note:

- He has it to give to as many as the Father Has given!

Note:

Here we see that Christ is remembering that eternal life will not go to everyone, but rather only to those that God has appointed it too.

*“Eternal life to as many as you have given Him.”*

Here is where we discover the doctrine of election for the believer.

- The doctrine of election says that only those who God has called/elected will be saved...
- Scripture teaches that God has called all men but not all men come!

So when we see Jesus in this text He is saying that all those that the Father has called to eternal life, He too has called as he walked on earth!

1. He also says that they were given to Him!
2. They were gifts of the Father
3. They were special to the Father
4. They were chosen by the Father

They were given to Him that he may reveal God's plan for their lives.

Application:

The believer can pray with inspiration like this, when we too have done all that God has called us to do.

The believer can pray like this when we have assurance that God has used us in the earth.

Praying with inspiration always leads the believer to remember what God has done for us, and through us.

Praying with inspiration always reminds the believer of the exousia, that God has given us on earth to operate on his behalf

Note:

1. As a Christian family we have authority in the earth! {we ought to now start praying with it}
2. As a local church we have authority to work on God's behalf. {we ought to now start praying with it}
3. As born again believers we have power to help people, change things, lead them to God, and make a difference in the world! {we ought to start praying with it}
4. We too have the divine assignment of using God's authority in the earth. {we ought to now start praying with it}
5. Because we too are in Christ and have a relationship with the father!

### III. The Masters Invitation

<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Here we see An Inspired Savior defining what it means to have an eternal relationship with His father!

Eternal life, as defined here by Jesus, involves the experience of knowing the only true God through His Son (cf. Matt. 11:27).

It is a personal relationship of intimacy which is continuous and *dynamic*. The word know (*ginōskōsin*) here is in the present tense, it is a right now as I'm speaking event)

It is also often used in the Septuagint and sometimes in the Greek New Testament to describe the intimacy of knowing another person.

A person who knows God has an *intimate personal relationship* with Him. And that relationship is eternal, not temporary.

Note:

We should also take notice that Eternal life is not simply endless existence. Everyone will exist

somewhere forever (cf. Matt. 25:46), but the question is, In what condition or in what relationship will they spend eternity?

As He reflects in this prayer he says:

“<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know You!”

The evidence of those that Christ has come for have this gift of eternal life...

1. They know the Father!
2. They know who He is!
3. They know what He does!
4. They know how he operates!
5. They know what He likes!
6. They know what pleases Him!
7. They know His name!
8. They know His attributes!
9. They know His mannerisms
10. They know His word!

Observation:

All those who receive eternal life, have a relationship with the father, and it's through His Son. [Jesus Christ]

Note:

Secondly He says that when they receive eternal life, and have this intimacy with the Father through the Son, they will get to know the ONLY TRUE GOD!

Jesus is saying that there are no others like His Father!

- HE is the ONLY True God!
- There are no other options, competitors, or look alike!
- He is the only One of HIS Kind, and He gives ETERNAL life, through an intimate relationship with Him through His Son.

Observation:

- Buddha can't do this! Confucius can't do this! Muhammad can't do this! Secular humanism can't do this can't do this! Mormonism can't do this, Catholicism can't do this.
- Nobody but the Father can give eternal life, and this life is only given through the Son!

## Application:

- When we pray, let's remember who we are praying too!
- When we pray let's understand that there is nobody like the Father!
- When we pray let's remember that the Father is not on the same level with anyone
- When we pray let's remember that the Father is God and he has given us Eternal Life in His Son, and Only the Father can give eternal life!

## The Conclusion:

<sup>4</sup> I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

<sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 17:1-5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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Note:

When we come to this portion of the text we can discern that Jesus had a keen awareness of his mission (v. 4).

1. His mission was to glorify the Father on earth! Through His living, giving, serving, and saving of all who the Father had chosen for eternal life!
2. His mission was to also finish the work that the Father had called Him to do!
3. He declared that he had “finished” his work.
4. He was done with his labor and he had foreseen the cross in its completion!
5. Even though the nails and thorns were on the way, He had already foreseen that he was an overcomer!
6. Even though the mocking of the crowd had not come, he had already seen that he made it over!
7. Even though he had not yet been whipped with a cat of nine tails, he had already endured in His mind the beatings that were to come, He saw himself as an overcomer!

It is the same word he would utter on the cross. I have finished the work

Note:

In Jesus, There was no failure or incompleteness of his assigned mission. Jesus called it his “work.”<sup>3</sup> He had Finished His work, and in prayer he would tell the Father in his report, that the Father may be glorified!

Application:

- Every believer has a work to complete on earth!
- We too have an assignment that must be done for God!
- Even though This very work will be hard, difficult, discouraging at times, lonely and sometimes filled with pain, but the work is ours!
- The work is ours to complete! The work is ours to fulfill! The work is ours to embrace!
- The work is ours to bring God the Father glory through our service and sacrifice for Him!

Part B.

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<sup>3</sup> *The teacher's Bible commentary*. 1972 (F. H. Paschall & H. H. Hobbs, Ed.) (682). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.

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And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory *which I had* with You before the world was. <sup>4</sup>

Note:

As we close today we see one more powerful request from the Christ! In his intercession for himself, He asked to be glorified with the Father, just like he was glorified in the beginning of all things!

Note

When we arrive at this verse we get to peek behind the veil of Glory and get a glimpse at what we did not know!

John reveals that Jesus wanted to get back to his original state with the Father!

- In Prayer he is longing for His pre-incarnate glory!
- In Prayer he is longing for His position, posture and unseen position before time ever existed!

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<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 17:1-5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- In Prayer Christ had a longing to be with His Father as he was with Him in the beginning, when there was no separation.
- In Prayer we see him reveal for us, that He is God, and was with God, in the very beginning of all things.

*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*<sup>5</sup>

This text is written in the imperfect active tense...with an echo [I used to have with you this glory]

- He says this because he is longing to be with His father in the way and manner that things used to be!
- Here in this verse we get a glimpse at eternity!
- He wants to be with Him again, now that the work is finished!
- He wants to return back home, now that the work is finished,

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<sup>5</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 17:1-5). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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- He wants to get back to his throne, now that the work is finished
- Heavens Missionary has completed the assignment, and now it's time for the mission to be over. He longs for heaven and home.

#### Application:

- As a citizen of heaven, we too should long for the mission to be over, and to be home with our father!
- As a citizen of heaven, we too should want to be on our way to sit with our father.
- We ought to desire to what Jesus desires! We ought to want what Jesus wants; we ought to long for what he longed for.

#### Conclusion:

- It was in prayer that we could see the desire of His Heart!
- It was in prayer that we could see the longing of his deepest needs
- It was in prayer that we could discover what was on his heart!

And it would be in prayer, and through prayer that He would be able to finish what He had come to do for the Father!

- It was because he had a life of prayer, that he would be able to endure the shame of the cross!
- It was because of prayer that he would be able to endure that sufferings of this old world!
- Prayer helped him to make it through the torture of the roman soldiers
- Prayer helped him make it through an unjust court system
- Prayer helped him make it all the way up Golgotha
- Prayer helped him make it through the brutal pain of Calvary
- Prayer helped him make it through the dark day of crucifixion, and prayer helped him finish the work at Calvary.

Question:

1. How has this message helped you to think differently about prayer?
2. What will you do differently in your prayer life now?



## CHAPTER TWO

### Jesus Prayed about it!

#### John 17:6-19

<sup>6</sup> “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

<sup>14</sup> I have given them your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

#### *Christ Prays for All Believers*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 17:6–20). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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## Introduction:

When we come to this portion of this chapter we again see the Master in deep spiritual dialogue with the Father! He is praying for himself, His disciples and for those followers of Christ who are to come in the future.

This second portion of the prayer is special today because we see the intercession that is needed before they face the worse time in their lives and ministry together.

They are about to face a demonic onslaught of trouble they have never seen before. Their ministry is going to be broken up, their teacher will be taken from them, fear will overtake them, death will encircle them, and they will be forced to flee because of the nature of what they will encounter.

However, before they go through it, Jesus is going to pray for them!

I like this as a background, because it gives me hope, that no matter the obstacle that I am ordained to endure, when my trial or my trouble comes from God I can make it, no matter what it looks like, and it feels like. Because He has prayed for me, I am guaranteed that it's all going to be alright!

When it comes to praying and discerning about prayer we can learn a great deal from this passage.

Jesus is in a very difficult place. He is getting ready to go to the cross for the sins of the world.

He knows that impending danger is ahead of him and that great stress is on the way. Yet He sees this opportunity as only being done for the honor and glory of God.

As he prays in this text He teaches us how to approach trials and tribulation, while living for God in difficult times.

We can identify 4 things in this text;

- We can learn how to embrace the trials of this life as events given to us by the hand of God
- We can also learn how to develop the right mind of prayer in the midst of these times.
- We can learn how to think, and to give God the praise in spite of what things look like and will be like.
- Finally, we can learn that Prayer is the preparation we all need to endure the suffering we don't want.

## I. HIS REPORT TO THE FATHER

<sup>6</sup> “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have *given Me* out of the world. They *were Yours*, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

<sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have *given Me* are *from You*.

<sup>8</sup> For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

Note:

As we arrive at these verses we see the Master giving the report of the disciple's faith in what he taught to them concerning God's mission for their lives in the earth.

1. God's mission for them was that they would receive His Son, listen to His son, submit to his son, accept the call and invitation of the son, and then keep his words in the order in which he gave them.
2. The second thing we see is that Jesus reports that they have heard everything and now have known everything that the Father has gave

Him to give to them. [*they have been fully briefed about the plan of God for humanity*]

3. The third thing I see in this passage is that the primary discussion in prayer here, is on the importance of them receiving and believing His word (vs.8)

“For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.”

Observation:

Here is where we get a clear understanding of what a disciple really is.....

- A Disciple receives God’s word...
- A Disciple believes God’s word
- A Disciple Believes that Jesus was God, is God and came from God

“In verse six he uses the word I have manifested” it literally is another word for claiming successful accomplishment of his task<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Robertson, A. (1933). *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Jn 17:6). Nashville, TN: Broadman Press.

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- The task of making the father known in the earth is finished!
- The task of revealing the son is finished!
- The task/assignment is complete, and completed in the correct manner!

He also uses the phrase in verse seven “They *have come to know*”...It also is written in the perfect tense...They know perfectly who I am and what you have called me to do!

Application:

When we look at this text in its future context, we can learn that in the future when we stand before God these same things that Christ prayed for in the lives of His servants must be present in our own lives.

1. We should be certain that we have received Gods word
2. We should be certain that we believed Gods word
3. We should be certain that we believed that Jesus was God, is God and came from God
4. We should be certain that we applied His word to our hearts, and lived by His word.

## II. HIS REFLECTION WITH THE FATHER

<sup>9</sup> “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

Note:

Here we discover that “The verb *erōtō* (“I pray”) signals the first major shift in the chapter to a direct concern for the disciples in the hostile world.”<sup>8</sup>

Its where Jesus in the prayer begins his intercession specifically for them!

Here he is about to talk to the father concerning the things that the disciples were facing, and would face in the future!

Application:

Now that’s what I call praying right there!  
That’s praying with a focus, that’s praying with a purpose, that’s praying with people on your mind and your mind on people!

That’s discipleship in action!

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<sup>8</sup> Borchert, G. L. (2002). *Vol. 25B: John 12–21*. The New American Commentary (195). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

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It's you focused on the one you are teaching, caring for and discipling...

Note:

Secondly He says I do not pray for the world but for those whom you have given Me, for they are Yours.

- Jesus is not rejecting the world...He is focused on the disciples. He loves the world also (Jn 3:16) But here his focus is on intercession for those who will witness in the world for him.
- His focus is on the ones who will carry the gospel to the end of the world
- His focus is on those who will be tortured by the world for following Him.
- He intercedes for them, because their hour of trial has come.
- Calvary is around the corner, and great tribulation is on the way.

“I don't pray for the world” but for those you have given me!

Note:

1. Here we see the all-important relationship between the eleven disciples and Christ!
2. They are set apart from the world!

3. They are gifts from the Father to the Son!
4. They are special to Christ because they were special to his Father!
5. So His intercession is specially made just for them!

Application:

- This is a great place to tell you that if you are making a disciple of someone, you too should intercede on their behalf
- You too should have an intimate prayer session where you call their names before God's throne...
- Parents you ought to pray more diligently for your babies, before the throne
- You ought to ask God to go on their behalf as they encounter the trouble of life
- Don't give them bad advice or worldly council, but rather give them intercession
- Pray that the Father goes on their behalf before they enter the trials of life

Note:

Thirdly we see that Christ says <sup>10</sup> *And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.*

## Observation:

A scholar shared this information with me... He said Wilson, it's important to know that these missiological implications from Jesus are powerful!

Since "his" disciples actually belonged to the Father and the Father's disciples were also his, then what brought honor and glory to God through them actually also brought glory or honor to Jesus!

But the Christological implications are also extremely important in this verse.<sup>9</sup>

Because of the training and the teaching Christ gave them, they became fully aware of who the Father was, and what his mission and plan was for them through Christ!

- If Jesus doesn't make it clear for them, they miss the fathers plan!
- If Jesus fails to get them to see Gods will they miss the Fathers plan!
- If Jesus does not do a good job, with His father's mission, his mission becomes problematic
  
- Their Christology is going to be critical to their theology! If they get who Jesus is they will get to know who God is!

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<sup>9</sup> Borchert, G. L. (2002). *Vol. 25B: John 12-21*. The New American Commentary (196). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

Note:

Fourthly Jesus says in the intercession, <sup>11</sup> *Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me that they may be one as We are.*

Observation:

E.A Blum commenting on this text says that because Jesus would soon depart to the Father and leave His disciples in the world.

They had to stay in the world to carry out God's plan in spreading the good news of redemption and in planting the church.

With the formation of the church, the history of the world has become, in a sense, "a tale of two cities": the city of God and the city of man.

Note:

- Since the disciples would be in the world, Jesus prayed for their protection.
- The hostility against God which fell on Jesus would now fall on the tiny band of apostles, and after them on many of Jesus' followers.

- Jesus, in calling on His Holy Father, lifted up God's distinction from sinful creatures.

AS HE PRAYS THE DISCIPLES ARE LISTENING IN ...HE IS TEACHING THEM HOW TO PRAY THE RIGHT WAY!

HE IS TEACHING THEM TO DRAW A LINE OF CLEAR DISTICNTION BETWEEN MORTAL MAN AND THE HOLY FATHER.

- This holiness is the basis for believers' separation from the world.
- Christ wants the Father to protect them from the sin and enmity of the world by the power of His name (cf. Prov. 18:10).

Application:

In our intercession for those that we teach, and care for, we too should pray the right way!

We should ask the HOLY FATHER GOD to keep them in His Name, from the Sin sick wickedness of this world

We too should pray for God the Father's NAME to be displayed over their lives, that they may be distinguished between those fallen creatures in the world who won't nothing to do with HIM!

Note:

The fifth and final thing we see in Christ Reflection with His Father is right here in verse twelve. *Jesus says* <sup>12</sup> *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.*

Observation:

Here we have discovered one of the most powerful references to the life of Judas, that can be found in the New Testament...

We notice that Jesus as the Good Shepherd, took care of the flock entrusted to Him by the Father. Listen to what He says... "While I was with them I kept them"....

But Judas here was an exception. He is here called the one doomed to destruction (lit., "the son of perdition").

A friend reflecting on this passage suggest that Judas was never a sheep and his true character was finally manifested (cf. 13:11; 1 John 2:19).

- This friend said that He was a “dead branch” (cf. comments on John 15:2, 6).
- He said Judas did what he wanted to do (he sold Jesus)!
- He was a willing tool of Satan (13:2, 27).

Observation:

By Jesus making mention of this in His reflection to the Father we too can learn that even when some people voluntarily rebel against Christ, they too fit into God’s sovereign plan (cf. Acts 2:23; 4:28).

Thus Judas’ betrayal of Jesus fulfilled (i.e., filled up in a larger sense) the words in Psalm 41:9 about David’s betrayal by his friend.<sup>10</sup>

Observation :

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<sup>10</sup> Blum, E. A. (1985). John. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), . *Vol. 2: The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (332). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

Warren Wiersbe commenting on this passage said something that I think is worth repeating here. It's a comment about eternal security.

He suggest; there are some people who will try use v. 12 as "proof" that a believer can lose his or her salvation, but a careful reading of the verse proves just the opposite!

Jesus said, "None of them is lost *but the son of perdition.*" This shows that Judas was never a part of the believing band of disciples.

The word "But" is a word of contrast, showing that Judas was in a different class from the others.

In v. 11 Jesus plainly stated that He kept all whom the Father gave Him; since Judas was lost, he could not have *been among those* who were *given to the Son.*

Wiersbe in his commentary reminds us that Christians are not of the world, but they are in the world to witness for Christ.

- As Christians we are to keep our lives clean through His Word.
- As Christians Christ has actually sent us into the world to take His place (v. 18).

- As Christians we need to know what a heavy-responsibility we have!<sup>11</sup>

### III. HIS REQUEST OF THE FATHER

<sup>13</sup> But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

<sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

<sup>15</sup> I do not *pray* that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

<sup>18</sup> As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

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<sup>11</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (258–259). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Note:

As we come to the final words for the disciple's intercession we have four amazing points:

Point 1:

1. In verse thirteen the words of comfort spoken by Jesus (I say these things) to His disciples were of great joy later on!
2. Following His crucifixion and resurrection, they would recall His words and experience the full measure of His joy.
3. Joy would come to them because they knew from His words that He had conquered the evil one and brought eternal life to them.

Point 2:

In verse fourteen, Jesus' intercession for the disciples continued with a reminder of

(a) Their value and (b) their coming danger.

They were valuable because they had received the Word of God: I have given them Your Word (cf. "I gave them the words You gave Me," v. 8).

- They were in danger because the satanic world system hated them.
- It hated them because they are not a part of it.
- As believers share Jesus Christ, “Everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes, and the boasting of what he has and does” (1 John 2:16) loses its attractiveness.
- A believer’s commitment shows the world’s values to be trash or dung (cf. Phil. 3:8). Therefore the world hates the exposure of its sinful values (cf. John 3:20).

Point 3: In verse fifteen we learn that God’s plan was not to remove the disciples from danger and opposition (take them out of the world) but to preserve them in the midst of conflict.

Though Jesus would soon be taken out of the world (v. 11), His followers are to remain in it.

Like Daniel in Babylon (Dan. 1–2; 4–6) and the saints in Caesar’s household (Phil. 4:22), God intends for His followers to be witnesses to truth in the midst of satanic falsehood.

Satan, the evil one (cf. Matt. 5:37; 1 John 5:19), as head of the world system, seeks to do everything possible to destroy believers (cf. Rev. 2:10; 12:10) but God's plan will prevail.

Christians must not take themselves out of the world but remain in meaningful contact with it, trusting in God's protection while they witness for Jesus.

Point 4: In verse seventeen Just as Jesus did not belong to the satanic world system (I am not of it; cf. v. 14), so believers do not.

As Believers, They belong to the heavenly kingdom (Col. 1:13) because of their new births (cf. John 3:3).

Jesus had prayed for protection for His disciples (17:11). Now His second petition for them was for their sanctification.

The word Sanctify means "set apart for special use." A believer is to be distinct from the world's sin, its values, and its goals.

The means of this sanctifying work is God's truth. The truth is communicated in the Word, which is both personal and living!

## Application:

As the message about Jesus was heard, believed, and understood, the disciples' hearts and minds were captured.

This change in their thinking resulted in changes in their living.

The same is true of believers today. As they appropriate God's Word to their lives, they are sanctified—set apart for God and changed in their living in order to honor God (cf. 15:3).

God's message set the apostles apart from the world so that they would do His will, not Satan's.

## The Conclusion:

As we look at the final verse we see that Jesus is the model for every believer.

He was in the world but He was not of the world (vv. 14b, 16b).

He was sent ... into the world on a mission by His Father. So believers are sent ... into the world on a mission by the Son, to make the Father known (cf. 20:21).

Inasmuch as Jesus' prayer for the disciples was not limited to the immediate apostles (cf. 17:20), this passage is similar to the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18–20).

Each Christian should view himself as a missionary whose task is to communicate God's truth to others.

The closing text says... For the benefit of the disciples, Jesus sanctified Himself. In what sense did Jesus need to sanctify Himself, He separated and dedicated to His life to his *death*.

And the purpose of His death was that they too may be truly sanctified.

The words "truly sanctified" are literally "sanctified in truth." This literally means that only God's truth is the means of sanctification (cf. comments on v. 17).

The purpose of the death of Christ is to dedicate or separate believers to God and His program.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Blum, E. A. (1985). John. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), . Vol. 2: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck, Ed.) (332–333). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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That's why he prayed this prayer, interceded for him and for them, then he headed out to face the mission that the Father had given Him to do.

Question:

1. How has this message helped you to think differently about prayer?
2. What will you do differently in your prayer life now?

## CHAPTER THREE

### When Jesus Prayed for Us

#### John 17:21-26

21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

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.”

## Introduction:

When we come to this portion of this chapter we again see the Master in deep spiritual dialogue with the Father! He has prayed for himself, His 12 disciples and for those followers of Christ who are to come in the future.

The particular prayer today is important because we see Jesus as an intercession that is needed before you and I face the worse times in our lives and ministry together.

The church today in America needs prayer! We are about to face a demonic onslaught of trouble worse than we have ever seen before. Our ministries will soon come under attack as the current estate of world affairs will continue to shape how we do church!

### Note:

We have been given the privilege to represent Christ as his ambassadors in the Midnight hour of this age. We do this through times of darkness, loneliness, pain, isolation, difficulty, trouble, persecution, mistreatment, confusion and much more.

- We are living in the midnight hour of global chaos. Never has the world been so evil and corrupt. (Its midnight!)

- We are living through international terrorism against the church of Jesus Christ for the witness of Jesus Christ. (World religions meet to discuss our demise.) (Its midnight!)
- There is Persecution on economic, political, social, and religious fronts against us. (Its midnight!)
- There are rampant evil global-doctrines springing up against the church of Jesus Christ. (Its midnight!)
- We are facing Murder, envy, jealousy, racism, rage, greed, idolatry, immorality and homosexuality like never before. (Its midnight!)

And just like every church-generation before us persecution is going to be the tool that attempts to cause fear, and death to encircle us, just like that night in the upper room for the disciples of Christ.

They too were forced to flee because of the nature of what they had to encounter. [You and I will soon and very soon face much of the same tribulation]

However, before we go through it, we will be reminded that Jesus has already prayed for us, and is praying for us right now!

I like this as a background, because it gives me hope, that no matter the obstacle that I am ordained to endure, when my trial or my trouble comes from God I can make it, no matter what it looks like, and it feels like. Because He has prayed for me, I am guaranteed that it's all going to be alright!

1. When it comes to praying and discerning about prayer we can learn a great deal from this passage.
2. Jesus is in a very difficult place. He is getting ready to go to the cross for the sins of the world.
3. He knows that impending danger is ahead of him and that great stress is on the way. Yet He sees this opportunity as only being done for the honor and glory of God.

As he prays in this text He teaches us how to approach trials and tribulation, while living for God in difficult times.

We can identify 4 things in this text;

- We can learn how to embrace the trials of this life as events given to us by the hand of God
- We can also learn how to develop the right mind of prayer in the midst of these times.

- We can learn how to think, and to give God the praise in spite of what things look like and will be like.
- Finally, we can learn that Prayer is the preparation we all need to endure the suffering we don't want.

### 1. Jesus prays for Unity

20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that they all may be one, as *You, Father, are in Me, and I in You*; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

Note:

When we get to this portion of the text we see a startling request from our Savior to His father!  
That we may be one like they are one!  
This is powerful because it produces several things that are alarming!

- He doesn't request that we receive material things

- He doesn't request that we receive physical things, but that rather we see receive something supernatural on our journey to make us look like him.
- He prays that we be changed and made to be one!
- *Wow this implies* that we take off some stuff!
- *This implies* that we let go of some stuff!
- *This implies* that we change from our own selfish agendas and to be transformed into what Christ has in mind for his church!

Note:

One scholar says, "Christ prays for the unity of His church (v. 21), because There is a vast differences between having a oneness of heart and being forced into uniformity (everybody exactly alike)."

"Christ never prayed that all Christians would belong to one world church. [Uniformity] A global church merger may bring about organizational uniformity, but it cannot guarantee unity."

“Unity comes from life within, not from pressure without. While true Christians belong to different denominations, they are all part of *the true church*, the body of Christ; it is this *spiritual unity* in love that convinces the world of the truth of the Gospel.

It is possible for Christians to differ on minor matters and still love one another in Christ.<sup>13</sup>”

Application:

This week I shared the classroom with servants from 15 different CHURCH traditions, and we didn’t agree on the same way to preach, teach, and to lead people, but when we sang “we fall down we lay our crowns” ...and when we sang the doxology [praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures him below, praise him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost...AMEN] at the end of

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<sup>13</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). *Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament* (p. 259). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

class, I could have cried out loud! Because we were Unified and we were one!

We didn't all look alike, we didn't all serve alike, we didn't all practice each other's traditions ... but we were unified in our worship! We were not placed in the body for UNIFORMITY, but rather for UNITY.....

- We DID all agree that Jesus was the Christ!
- We DID all agreed that He was the only begotten of the Father!
- We DID all agree that there was and is The Holy Trinity!
- We DID all agree that Jesus was the way the truth and The Life!
- We DID all agree that salvation in Christ is by grace, and that it is free!

We DID all agree that we would disagree on matters that were not foundational to our salvation, AND WE DID all agreed that Jesus would be glorified by our lives and our ministries!

And because we were Unified ...I experienced the fruit of Christ

Prayers....Jesus said “that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

Warren Wiersbe said it best:

“While true Christians belong to different denominations, they are all part of the true church, the body of Christ; it is this spiritual unity in love that convinces the world of the truth of the Gospel.”

*... It is possible for Christians to differ on minor matters and still love one another in Christ.<sup>14</sup>*

Observation:

Here’s why this is important family; Christ prayed for us that we would be one, let’s not work against His prayer!

- Christ prayed that we would be one so that the World...would believe the gospel!
- When we are one, the gospel gets to be front and center stage!
- When we are one the gospel makes sense to the Lost!

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<sup>14</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1992). Wiersbe’s expository outlines on the New Testament (p. 259). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

- When we are one the gospel will change lives.
- When we are one the gospel will impact the world!
- When we are one the gospel will penetrate hard hearts.

**BUT!** When we are not one, we work against the prayer of Christ!

- When we refuse to be one, we make the prayer of Christ of non-effect...And where there is no Unity there is confusion.
- Where is confusion, there is suspicion! Where there is suspicion, there is pride! Where there is pride, there is SIN. Where there is SIN there is isolation.
- Where there is isolation, there is an ineffective witness. Where there is an ineffective witness there is always a bitter-believer, and where there is a bitter believer there is evidence of satanic interference.

**Application:**

Let's not work against Christ in this body, let's allow the prayer of Christ to not only be requested in glory but lived out in our lives on earth! (Can you help me with that?)

[TELL A NIEGHBOR JESUS KNEW WHAT TO PRAY FOR]

II. Jesus Prays for Unanimity

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be *one* just as We are one:

23 I in them, and *You in Me*; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may *know* that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Note:

A.D Wilson says that here we see Jesus praying for the unanimity of the future believers! [*'The Mindset that says we unanimously agree we are one!'*]

*Wilson believes that Christ not only prays that God would unify them physically, but that he prays for their minds to be on one accord!*

- In this request it is a divine call for the Father to institute what has never been done on the earth before!
- This is a new thing!
- This is a divine work!

- This is a supernatural intervention to occur in the hearts and minds of a people, who don't even know that they have been called by God to be a part of a divine work of God.
- Here we can discover that they Christ has been talking about them to His Father and they have been given status, position, and family prestige that is second to none!

“the glory which You gave Me I have given them”  
that they may be *one* just as We are one

This prayer request here is all powerful!

He is informing the HOLY FATHER here of what He has done on OUR behalf!

Observation:

Jesus has given us His Glory! And this glory is seen in multifaceted areas of his being....

Note:

1. Jesus has a glory given to him by the Father that is second to none in the existence of humanity!
2. “In His Glory” He is the God-Man, he is Emmanuel, and He is the Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End.

3. “In His Glory “He is the visible image of the invisible God!
4. “In His Glory “HE is second member of the trinity!
5. “In His Glory “He is God almighty!
6. “In His Glory “He is also the suffering King, he is the Lamb of God.
7. “In His Glory” He is sacrificial offering for our sins
8. “In His Glory “He is the answer for all of Humanities trouble...
9. “In His Glory “He is the only one who could manifest the glory of God while dying on the cross and being victorious over the grave!

“In His Glory “His sufferings are divine and glorious...AND yet HE wants us to partake of this same glory...

This glory given to us is manifested in a much different way...

1. As Christians, We are not all that Christ was and is, but we have been called to follow Him!
2. As Christians, That means that the suffering he endured we too must endure, can endure and will endure, with a glory that is like no other!
3. As Christians, During our divine trials we too will bring God pleasure
4. As Christians, During our earthly dying, God because of Christ imparted glory, the Father will be praised
5. As Christians, During our divine persecution God will get glory
6. As Christians, During our divine difficulty God can be lifted High and draw all men unto Himself
7. As Christians, During our greatest suffering God will be praised as He raises us back to life through our resurrection!
8. As Christians, When the world see's us after resurrection they will see the glory of God!
9. As Christians, When the world see us though sacrificial living they will see the glory of God!

10. As Christians, when they see us loving one another, serving the poor, preaching the gospel, living the gospel they will see the glory of God!

Note:

“that they may be *one* just as We are one:”

Jesus concludes by desiring that we will be One!

Here we get a look at the heart of our savior! HE desires that the community that is enjoyed in the TRINITY, be enjoyed by us.

Not only does he give us his manifested glory, but desires that we taste the divine glory on communion and community.

NOTE:

- He longs for us to be one...He wants us to be family! He wants us to be one! He wants us to be united, He wants us to have the same purpose, to glorify Him in our living and dying! We all recognize that Christ wants to be glorified through Us!

Application:

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- In Africa He wants the Church to have His glory! In Canada He wants the Church to have His glory!
- In Asia He wants the Church to Have His Glory!
- In Australia He wants the Church to Have His Glory!
- In The South pacific He wants the Church to Have His Glory!
- In Russia He wants the Church to Have His Glory
- In North/South America He wants the Church to have His glory

Part 2:

23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and *that the world may know that You have sent Me*, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Observation:

Here we see where Christ desires and Has prayed for us to be in community with one another!

One scholar said:

“The purpose of the glory spoken of in 17:23 was for worldwide evangelization.” “This prayer for unity had an evangelistic purpose—so that the world may believe that God the Father sent his divine Son.”

“ The glory of believers is the unity shared between the Son, the Father, and themselves (17:22).”

Jesus wanted the disciples to have his glory as proof of his eternal oneness with the Father.

Note:

- When we are bearing the glory of Christ we are at our best!
- Have you ever noticed that when we are on one accord... churches work better together!
- When we are on one accord... the glory of God is seen across the city!
- When we are on one accord... churches win lost people for the gospel!
- When we are on one accord... we help one another feed the poor
- When we are on one accord... Christian-schools get built, Christian-orphanages are developed, Christian-churches are planted, Christian-hospitals are established, and the gospel is spread through around the world!
- When we are on one accord... there is nothing that we can't do!

When you are on ONE ACCORD:

- You will be about the work of the kingdom in the body!

- You will be willing to work with other believers
- You will be willing to spread the gospel to the end of the earth
- You will be willing to work with others
- You will be willing to reach broken AND HURTING PEOPLE
- You will be willing to do what God wants

Note:

- I'm encouraged here because Jesus knows How to Pray! This prayer lifts up my bowed down head!
- Jesus knows how to pray for me!
- (Because I need the glory of God)
- He knows what I need on the journey!
- (And I need the glory of God)
- He knew I needed church family
- (And we need the glory of God)
- He knew I need to be loved!
- Jesus knows How to Pray!
- He knew I need community!
- Jesus knows How to Pray!
- He knew I needed to be surrounded by believers!

The Conclusion:

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.”

Note:

As we come to the close of this prayer the heart of the Master is protruding to the forefront...

- In his heart and on his lips is the desire for the unity of Christians,
- The opportunity for them to be with Him in glory
- The opportunity for the world to know that God exist and He is “IN DEED” HIS SON and the desire of God in their lives.

Observation:

- Right before the cross this is what He asks for!
- Right before the Cross, this is on his heart!

- Right before the Cross he is praying for others, and praying that they would be blessed and be able to know truth.

### Application:

- In spite of his future sufferings he has His mind on others being blessed
  - In spite of his impending doom, He wants you and I to have access to Heaven
  - In spite of what's to come, he wants the world to be able to know God's truth and to know that JESUS is God's answer
1. I'm learning how to pray by reading this gospel; I'm learning how to get my prayers right in spite of my own issues
  2. I'm learning how to put others before myself even though suffering is on the way
  3. I'm learning how to keep my eyes on heaven and pray for others to be able to join me there, in spite of what it's going to cost me to get there
  4. I'm learning how to pray, for those who hate me, and to asks God to open their eyes that they might know His only begotten Son [JESUS CHRIST}
  5. I'm learning by watching Jesus go through this His prayers, how I too need

to pray for the Unity of the Church, and the Unanimity of the believers.

As I close today!

- I've learned that prayer will make you want what Christ wants
- Prayer will make you desire what He desires
- Prayer will make you long for what he longs for!

This is surely a prayer that the Father longs to grant. It is, after all, the purpose of Jesus entering the world, that human beings may become God's children and join him in heaven (John 1:12).<sup>15</sup>

And Finally I learned that Christ wants me to go to Heaven

‘Christ asks my presence in Heaven  
Christ spoke to his Father about me being there

But I also learned that nobody gets there without following Him to the Cross!

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<sup>15</sup> Knowles, A. (2001). *The Bible guide* (1st Augsburg books ed., p. 524). Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg.

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In order for me to get to heaven Jesus had to go to the Cross

In order to redeem mankind, Jesus had to go through the Cross. In order for me to go with Christ I have to follow Christ!

## About the Author

Brother Angulus has a passion for making disciples and equipping saints for the work of ministry. He is the president and founder of the Angelos Biblical Institute, a school of evangelism to help the church to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Angulus has served Christian Universities such as Samford University of Birmingham Alabama, and Wheaton College of Wheaton Illinois, and He is currently serving as the University Pastor of Fresno Pacific University, Dean of the Chapel. He is a native of Los Angeles and resides in California's Central Valley. Pastor Wilson is a friend to the preacher, and servant of the Kingdom.