

Jesus Prays

10-20-24

John 17:1 (ESV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, HE lifted up HIS eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify YOU.

On the night before HIS crucifixion starting in C.13, Jesus has been teaching HIS disciples. Now HE is wrapping everything up with a prayer. The entirety of C. 17, records Jesus’ prayer. In Matthew 6:9, Jesus tells us how we should pray and starts, “Our Father who are in heaven.” Here in John 17, Jesus is actually praying. HE looks to heaven and says, “Father.” Jesus’ prayer is packed with insight. Each of us should take time to read it. This morning I want to highlight a few points from Jesus’ prayer. First of all, look at verse 3.

John 17:3 (ESV)

This is eternal life, that they know YOU, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom YOU have sent.

Jesus praying to the Father rehearses what eternal life actually is. Eternal life is “to know” the only true God and Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters, this foundational truth answers most of our religious and theological questions. Our eternity is wrapped up in God and Jesus Christ. Redemption is ..., Salvation is ..., Heaven is ..., Christianity is ..., to know the only true God and Jesus Christ. Here on earth, the reality of “stuff” physical and situational flows out from knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ the creator of all things. This explains what Jesus means later in verse 10. THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE!

John 17:10 (ESV)

All MINE are YOURS, and YOURS are MINE, and I am glorified in them (believers). – A FOREVER RELATIONSHIP—

Jesus came down from heaven to bring people to “know” the only true God and bring mankind into the right relation with God. Jesus accomplished HIS mission.

John 17:4 (ESV)

I glorified YOU on earth, having “accomplished” the work that YOU gave ME to do.

Now after completing HIS work, Jesus returns to heaven.

John 17:5 (ESV)

And now, Father, glorify ME in YOUR own presence with the glory that I had with YOU BEFORE THE WORLD EXISTED.

Jesus and the Father were together before the world existed and now Jesus is returning to heaven. We see this in the first verse of the book of John.

John 1:1 (ESV) NO/OH

In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God.

Jesus, the Word came down to accomplish the work of God.

John 1:14 (ESV) NO/OH

And the Word (Jesus) became flesh and dwelt among us.

Now as fully restored believers, we are qualified to experience the glory of Jesus Christ.

Now Jesus wants us in heaven to fully experience HIS glory.

John 17:24 (ESV)

Father, I desire that they also, whom YOU have given ME, may be with ME where I am, to see MY glory that YOU have given ME because YOU loved ME before the foundation of the world.

Brother and sisters, we need to know how we rate before God. We are loved, honored, cherished exceedingly beyond our ability to imagine. God showed us the reality of HIS love by having HIS OWN SON whom HE loved before the world was even created to come to earth and suffer the punishment for all our sins and die for us on the cross so that we would know the only true God and experience the glory of Christ. Not only that, but Jesus also continues to pray for us.

John 17:9 (ESV)

I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom YOU have given ME, for they are YOURS.

We say, Jesus prays for the whole world. No, HE does not! Jesus prays for us, me, and you.

John 17:14 (ESV)

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.

Jesus doesn't take us out of the world. He gives us an assignment and then asks God to protect us while we are in the world carrying out HIS mission.

John 17:15 (ESV)

I do not ask that YOU take them out of the world, but that YOU keep them from the evil one.

Brothers and sisters, the battle line have been set and Jesus chose us to stand with HIM.

John 17:16 (ESV)

They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

As those on team Jesus, HE prays for us.

John 17:17 (ESV)

(Heavenly Father) Sanctify them in the truth; YOUR WORD IS TRUTH.

Sanctify means to set apart. Since the Word of God is truth, Jesus asks God to set us apart and reveal HIS truth to us.

Be excited! Now remember, HE has given us the Parakletos, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth to guide us. Also, Jesus promised us that we have access to the Father. HE hears us and whatever we ask in the Name of Jesus, HE gives us.

John 16:23 (ESV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in MY name, HE will give it to you.