

Gospel of John #24  
**Jesus Prays**

**John 17**

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Please pray for Maker's Camp! The Cepin family is sick; we are scrambling a bit. But it is a good day. Let's pray!

So far in this sermon series, we've been walking towards John 17, towards the intimacy that Jesus is offering. In this chapter, we get to see where Jesus lives, which is in prayer with the Father. He does everything else interspersed with prayer: John 17 is an extended prayer for his disciples and for us today!

**John 17**

**1** After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. **2** For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. **3** Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **4** I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. **5** And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

The first thing that stands out is GLORY: we hear and say this word and think we know what it means. It calls images like "eternal glory" in Harry Potter: it's like you are a NOUN and will be lifted up in fame with the things you are doing. There is a primacy and "firstness" to the one who is in glory: Jesus is first, the king enthroned in glory. There is also an idea of brilliance, the glory of the Lord is bright. It has a physical-ness that is present in this world. Moses's face shined with glory; Isaiah and Ezekiel fell face down when they encountered God's glory. In Jesus's ministry we see such moments revealed through his words. There is an authority that comes with Jesus's glory: he gives eternal life, which is animation in the Father. Without the Spirit, we walk around in the darkness as though we were dead: the Holy Spirit comes and animates us with true life. This eternal life goes beyond just going to heaven playing harps in the clouds. Eternal life is

present NOW: we are tethered to the Father through the Spirit to live this life here and now and when we die, this life will continue in the presence of the Father. This starts when we believe in Jesus because he has the authority to give us this life. Jesus was there at the beginning:

**6** "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. **7** Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. **8** For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

The disciples are called out and defined by their obedience to Jesus.

**9** I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. **10** All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. **11** I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. **12** While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

Jesus prays for their protection; he prayed for safety while he was with them. This creates a picture for me: imagine you are on your porch surrounded by Christmas lights as well as a giant spotlight. The BUGS will go to the spotlight: this is what happened when Jesus was in the world. Wherever he was, the demons went. "Son of David, what will you do to me?" The enemy comes to tempt Jesus!

What happens when Jesus dies and is resurrected to heaven? The Holy Spirit's presence is dispersed among the disciples! This light is to go into the world: the enemy will now come after them.

This is why Jesus asks for their protection so they may be one as they are one, so that they might have unity. This unity between the Father and Son is unity in purpose: the son converse and have unity in relationship. The worship of the Father reflects back on the son. This is the unity that Jesus longs for in his disciples as well. He wants them united in purpose and worship and relationship even though the disciples sometimes failed at this.

**13** "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. **14** I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. **15** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Jesus prays for JOY, the pleasure of God's company. It is unlike happiness: there is joy in happiness but the world will hate the disciples and yet they can be filled with JOY in the midst of pain and persecution. Almost all the disciples died horrible deaths yet Jesus asks for JOY for them.

**16** They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. **17** Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. **18** As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. **19** For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

Sanctification (to be made holy and clean) and truth are connected. I have a picture: Imagine old, dirty penny's dipped in acid and they become shiny again. This is what happens when we are dipped into truth. When we know the truth with the Father, the lies of the enemy are burned away and we are made holy, made sanctified by God's truth. The enemy can't come against us.

Jesus sends the disciples on a mission to the world to DO something: to testify to his name, to proclaim the name of Jesus. This is their mission!

Now we come to one of my favorite parts in the Bible. Often in the Gospel, Jesus talks to and about various people. In this passage, however, Jesus is talking about you and me! US!

**20** "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

**This is ME!** Do you believe in Jesus? This is you! You could theoretically trace an historical unbroken line from you to the mission of the disciples to testify in Jesus's name. This is crazy: You could not know about Jesus's name without this line! As Jesus prays in this passage, he is talking about you and me and I love this!

**21** that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. **22** I have given them

the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— **23** I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

In vs. 22, Jesus has given the us the glory he received from the Father. **This glory we have been talking about** (*this thing that is lifted up and has primacy and firstness, this thing that is brilliant and bright and has authority that is in Jesus reflected back to the father*) **is in us!** We have authority to walk in the world to shine with the glory that is in Jesus, to speak with His authority. We are also called to the same unity in purpose, worship, and relationship. This glory is for a purpose: the world will know that God has sent him. This is a testimony of Jesus in a mission. We are called to the same thing the disciples were called to. We will skip vs. 24 and come back to. :

**25** “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. **26** I have made you<sup>all</sup> known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

We are called to LOVE. We have glory and are important: we have authority and have been given a job to minister and care for people in love. We are all very important pastors! We are called to live in the glory and authority of Jesus and go out and minister and serve, the work Jesus calls us to as a result of the message the disciples shared.

Let's go back to vs. 24:

**24** “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

Much of this prayer is about what Jesus wants the Father to do but this is an express longing and desire of Jesus: He weeps with his disciples, he calls them, he encourages them, and then he prays for us to be with him where he is: **Imagine this: Jesus wants you to be with him!** He says, “I want Eric, Hannah, Mark to be with me!” He wants us to know his love richly, to be home with Jesus. I just can't get over this expressed desire that we be WITH HIM!

THEMES in this chapter:



I want you to chew on this idea of being with Jesus: to be home with Jesus (even in the traveling mobile home!).

**Questions:**

Q: Why do we struggle so much with unity?

A: We are sinful: we come into relationships to GET WHAT WE NEED. This brings discord because the other person cannot give you what you really need. Together we can walk together and closer to Jesus but this is not what we are usually seeking. Instead, we want the other person to know they are wrong and that we are right. Unity reflects the Father and Son, sin reflects our world. We don't live out our lives as Jesus did, in prayer and with his disciples and the crowds. We are fearful and fight battles on our own instead of together. We forget we are in spiritual battles in our families and in our marriages, in ordinary life.