

“JESUS’ PRAYER OF INTERCESSION - PART 2”
John 17:6-26

INTRODUCTION:

- if you missed last week’s message you can either pick up the cd in the foyer after service, or go our our website, www.calvarynorth.com
- under the ‘recent sermons from Pastor Bob’ link you can view the notes and watch the video
- this prayer of Jesus is in two sections: the first section is vv. 1-5; we read that Jesus is praying for Himself; the second section is vv. 6-26; here Jesus prays for His disciples
- the second section can be divided into two further portions: vv. 6-19 praying for His eleven remaining disciples; and vv. 20-26 praying for those who would believe on Him
- last week I also mentioned there were at least eight ‘I have’s’ which Jesus brought to the Father; they were statements of how He had fulfilled His ministry
- the first two “I have’s” of Jesus are seen in v. 4: “I have glorified You on the earth”; “I have finished the work which You have given me to do”
- may the Lord speak to your heart by the Holy Spirit as we cover this holy prayer of our Lord
- pray

I. JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES VV. 6-19

A. I Have Manifested Your Name (vv. 6-8)

- in vv. 6-8 we read that Jesus had done these two things with His disciples:
 - *I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world”
 - *I have given them the words which You have given Me;”
- the word ‘manifested’ means ‘to shine forth, to make clearly known’
- how did Jesus manifest the Father’s name to the disciples? through His works, through His words and through the overall witness of His life
- the Father’s name represented His character and His attributes; Jesus was the true and faithful witness of the Father

**1Jn 1:1-3 NKJV That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— (2) the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— (3) that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

**Heb 1:3 NLT The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and He sustains everything by the mighty power of His command. When He had cleansed us from our sins, He sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.*

- we as disciples of our Lord are also to manifest *the name*--the character of Jesus--to this dying world around us
- we do this by receiving His love in its full measure from the Holy Spirit and then loving others we encounter day by day; it starts right here in this church!
- v. 8: “...*the words which You have given Me...*”; it is interesting that Jesus used a special word when He said ‘...the words which You have given Me...’
- what Jesus was referring to by those ‘words’ were those times where the Father had given Him a specific word of wisdom and/or knowledge to address the situation at hand before those disciples
- these were words of comfort, encouragement and edification; just reading ch. 14-16 of John’s gospel records some of these special prophetic words

- v. 8: “ *and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.* ; the disciples were in the beginning stages of their faith in Jesus as Messiah
- but notice the disciples are not belittled before the Father for their failures
- what do you think the Lord Jesus is saying to the Father about you right now?

B. Keep Them Through Your Name (vv. 9-16)

- Jesus’ prayer is directed specifically for those eleven disciples who had been with Him since the beginning of His ministry
- He had spent over three years discipling them by His life, His works, His words
- what is this that Jesus is referring to when He speaks of ‘the world’ (I do not pray for the world...)?
- we find three things in Scripture that refer to *the world*: the earth itself, the body of humanity, and the defiled world system
- the context of the section and verse determines the meaning
- when Jesus speaks about the world in this context, He is referring to the sinful, defiled, God-rejecting world system

**1Jn 2:15-16 NKJV Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.*

- vv. 11-12: now it was time to depart back to the Father;
- Jesus’ **first** prayer request was for the Father to ‘*keep them through Your name*’
- the great desire of the Lord Jesus was (and still is) that all of His disciples would be one in spirit and purpose, just as the Son and the Father were one
- this of all the times the gospels record their arguments and disagreements
- the unity referred to by Jesus is not the same as uniformity; uniformity is where everyone does exactly the same thing, the same way, at the same time
- the unity Jesus is referring to has to do with being unified in purpose and essentials of the faith
- Jesus ‘kept’ the disciples from being sifted out by the devil, except for Judas, the son of perdition
- this was implied when Jesus warned Peter that Satan had desired to sift him
- v. 13: it was and is also the desire of Jesus that His joy be fulfilled in us
- joy is different from happiness; happiness is dependent upon circumstances being favorable; Jesus’ joy is dependent upon life (zoe’) from God
- v. 15: notice Jesus prayed that the disciples not be taken out of the world, but that they should be kept from the evil one
- we are not to isolate ourselves from those who are not believers; how else are they going to come to know Jesus, if we remove ourselves from them?
- we are like rescue boats that come to save the drowning victims; the boat is in the water but the water has not overcome the boat
- are there holes in your boat? are you letting so much of the world values into your life that your boat is sinking?
- all it takes to renew that boat is to humble yourself before the Lord and admit the error of your ways; Jesus is in the boat with you; He can still the waves

C. Sanctify Them by Your Truth (vv. 17-19)

- the **second** request of this great prayer of intercession was that the Father would sanctify Jesus’ disciples

- the word sanctify means 'to be cleansed and set apart for divine use'; the root word is 'holy'
- how were they to be sanctified, cleansed and made prepared for the Master's use? by the Word of the Father
- our sanctification is both positional and practical
- it is positional because we are in Christ by faith; it is practical because the Holy Spirit is conforming our character into the image of Christ glory to glory
- it is interesting that Jesus said He sanctified Himself for our sakes that the disciples might be sanctified by the truth
- this is a true principle of all discipleship; I believe it is required of Christian leaders to live a life that exemplifies the truth according to the Scriptures
- duplicity of character in Christian leaders destroys trust in those who have been entrusted to them by the Father and the Son

II. JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL FUTURE DISCIPLES VV. 20-26

A. May They All Be One (vv. 20-21)

- this part of the prayer is directed specifically upon those who **would** believe on the testimony of those first eleven
- this includes us today; and what Jesus had prayed before on His eleven disciples has bearing to all future disciples as well
- this is what is implied by the request for unity; it is this unity of purpose and mission that identifies us to the surrounding world as Jesus' disciples
- unfortunately, like the Corinthian church, that witness has been clouded over the centuries by selfishness, pride, party-spirit among believers world-wide
- the overall history of the church is spotted with the failure to be truly unified
- yet the Spirit of God continues to work among believers to bring them into a unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

**Eph 4:1-3 NKJV I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

- unity in essentials, diversity in non-essentials, in all things charity

B. I Have Given Them My Glory (vv. 22-23)

- what is this 'glory' that Jesus has given to us? I believe in the context of the prayer it has to do with the character of Christ in and through the believer
- as you think about how Jesus prayed, you will notice this intimacy of fellowship between the Father and Him
- even though the Son was here on earth, the fellowship They had together was as if they were right next to each other...and indeed they were
- now, understand that it is the **desire** of the Son that you and I have that same fellowship with the Father and with the Him
- this fellowship is what makes us one in Him

**1Jn 1:3 NKJV that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*

C. May They Be With Me Where I Am (vv. 24-26)

- we are positionally attached to our head, Jesus Christ, who is seated at the right hand of the Father right this moment

- when we are separated from this body we will be immediately ushered by angels into the presence of the Lord Jesus to be with Him
- then we will behold the fullness of the glory of our Lord!
- it is the desire of our Lord Jesus that we be filled with the love of God; His love changes us
- think of it! *"...that the love with which You love Me may be in them, and I in them."*