

John 17

John 17.1-12

The setting: the end of Jesus' discourse with the 11 apostles

-The eve of Passover Sabbath, with an optimistic ending (*John 16:33*)

Read Matthew 6:9-13 - The so-called "Lord's Prayer"

-There is no evidence that it was ever actually prayed

-It was just a sample prayer to show them how to pray (the principles of prayer)

-*John 17* is the real "Lord's Prayer"

-Prayer was a fitting way to close a meeting such as this

V1 – "*These things*"? = *John 13-16*

-**The meaning of "The hour has come"**? The crucifixion was a short time away

-**How was Jesus about to glorify the Father?** His death on the cross would indicate the love of the Father for the souls of all human beings

V2 – **What authority does Jesus have?** To give eternal life to those belonging to the Father

V3 – **How do we obtain eternal life?** By knowing God the Father

-**How do we come to know Him?** Through Jesus (*John 14:6*)

V4 – **What was the work that Jesus was sent to do?** Deliver men and women from their sins

-**Did he succeed?** Yes, "*having accomplished*"

V5 – Remember *Philippians 2:5-11*

-For a period of time, Jesus "demoted" himself to the earth

-He learned what it was like to live as a human being

-**Would he get back his former glory?** Yes, shortly

V6 – Prayer now turns to his apostles

-All of the apostles were given to Jesus

-**Was Judas covered in this passage?** No, he did not keep the word of Jesus

V7 – **Significance of tense: they have come to know?** It took a while for them to "catch on" and understand it

V8 – The apostles had received the Word

-**Evidence from v 6-8 that these men were not predestined to be saved?** *V 36*, kept word, *v 8* received word and understood and believed it

V9 – **Who specifically was Jesus praying for in John 17?** The disciples, not the world

-A special prayer for them (and us), not that he hated the world

-If we belong to Jesus, we belong to God the Father

V10 – True deity here – God the Father = God the Son

V 11 – Notice the future tense here

- He is speaking as if the crucifixion was already over
- “I come to you” means Jesus was ready to leave earth
- Jesus prayed for us to be kept “in God’s name”, faithful in our lives
- What did Jesus specifically pray for among his disciples?** Unity, that they may be one
- What does it mean to be “one”?** Going in same direction (not like the religious world today)
- Is the ecumenical movement the answer?** No, "unity in diversity" does not work in the long run

V 12 – **Read Psalm 41:9** – Judas fulfilled prophecy, but he was not predestined to do what he did

V 1-12 – Prayer for glory to the Father and unity among his followers

John 17.13-21

V 13 – **Was this a silent prayer or an oral one?** Oral

- Why?** He was praying out loud, so that the 11 could get the benefits of his thoughts

V 14 – **What was Christ’s gift to us?** The word

- The world hates us because we have the word – the world doesn’t like the word
- This is one reason that people need to learn to read
- One recent article reported a drastic fall in reading ability: 1 out of 5 U.S. adults are functionally illiterate

V 15 – **Does Jesus want us to establish a commune off in the hills someplace?** No, we must be in the world

- Our influence on people comes only through contact with them
- For what then did Jesus pray?** That we would not become victims of Satan
- A constant danger of being in the world and falling away

V 16 – We are not part of the world

V 17 – *“Sanctify”* means to set apart for holy purposes

- What is truth?** The Word of God (Bible)

V 18 – Jesus was sending them out into the world

- Why?** To make disciples of all nations, by baptizing them

V 19 – Jesus set himself apart –he set the example and sanctifies us

Read Romans 12:1-2 – We keep our bodies from sin and in that sense sanctify ourselves

V 20 – **Who was Jesus really praying for?** All of us, all down through the centuries who believe, not just the apostles)

- We should all put our own name in v 20

V 21 – **Christ's request?** That the disciples be united

-**Why?** To be more effective witnesses to the world

-**Why so many different churches?** What people are most concerned about is maintaining their own misunderstandings of the Scriptures

John 17.22-26

V 22 – Glory means the great privilege of knowing God

-This is the third time he prayed for unity among believers

-We begin to see the importance of being so careful about peace in local congregations

-We ought to weigh our actions and words carefully to maintain sound doctrine, but peace also needs to be maintained, if at all possible

V 23 – Again praying for unity

V 24 – **Prayer of Jesus?** That we may see him in heaven some day

V 25 – A summary of the prayer

-His relationship to the Father

V 26 – He again prayed that we will love one another

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