

JESUS PRAYS

FOR HIS PEOPLE

PART 1



WHAT AMAZING LOVE ...

1. Jesus' prayed following "these words" of instruction, encouragement and warning in John 14-16.

- A. John 14:1-14 The affirmation of believing in Jesus and knowing him and the Father; the stewardship of fulfilling Jesus' mission by doing Jesus' works and proclaiming his gospel throughout the world.
- B. John 14:15-31 Loving Jesus, keeping his commandments and having his peace.
- C. John 15:1-11 Fruit-bearing branches that abide in Jesus, the Father (Vinedresser) pruning the fruitful branches to produce more fruit, full joy.
- D. John 15:1-17 The unbounded fruitfulness of abiding in Jesus, unbounded love and what it means to be a friend of Jesus.
- E. John 15:18-16:4 Paying attention to what Jesus says so we keep believing and recognize the times we live in, understanding our relationship with the world and staying true in our witness through the world's hate, the coming Helper the Spirit.
- F. John 16:1-15 The powerful, merciful, indispensable blessed role of the Spirit in convicting and convincing the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, the necessity of being led by the Spirit in truth.
- G. John 16:16-33 Jesus is the way of overcomers, we overcome when we follow Jesus, interpreting life as we follow Jesus, following Jesus through sorrow to true joy, having our peace in Jesus because he works his righteousness in us as we follow him.

2. The hour has come and Jesus prays that the Father would glorify the Son so that the Son would glorify the Father, 17:1-5.

- (John 17:1-5 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, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."

A. To glorify here means to clothe in splendor.

Glorify ... δοξάζω [doxazo] – clothe with splendor to impart glory to something; become clear or obvious to the eye or mind.

B. This is a prayer for the people of God that we would see and know God in his glory—both Father and Son.

C. This is eternal life—knowing the God of glory and Jesus Christ whom he sent by personal experience.

Know ... γινώσκω [ginosko] – to come to know, get knowledge of; experiential knowledge; knowledge gained through personal experience, relationship, and observation, rather than just factual information.

D. Only this knowing relationship with the God of glory is a saving relationship — anything else or anything less is a lie.

E. Jesus was given authority over all humans, and since he had authority over all, he had authority to give eternal life to those whom the Father had given him.

- (John 6:37-40 ESV) All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. 40 For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.
- (John 6:44-45 ESV) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. 45 It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.

F. Those whom the Father has given to him will ultimately come to believe in him.

G. This is not a prayer for the salvation of his people but for spiritual sight—a vision of the glory of God.

H. We are transformed into the image of Christ when we see the glory of the Lord.

- (2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

I. Jesus glorified the Father by accomplishing his assigned work on earth.

J. He now prays that he would be clothed in splendor as he was before the world existed.

3. In this entire prayer Jesus prays exclusively for the people of God—those whom the Father has given him out of the world, 17:6-19.

- A. The immediate context is that he is praying for his current disciples.
- B. Jesus continues his major theme of clearly revealing who God is to the people of God and in doing this clarifies our relationship with him.
- (John 17:6–7 ESV) I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.

Manifested ... φανερώ [phaneroō] – means to make visible or known, whether by words, or deeds, or in any other way; make actual, realized; to cause to become clearly revealed; expose to view; to be thoroughly understood who and what one is.

- C. The work of making God known by Jesus was exclusive to the people who were the Father's and have been given to the Son—the saved, believers.

Name ... ὄνομα [onoma] – knowing the one true God according to his reputation and character; the name is used for everything which the name covers regarding who he is.

- D. It is extremely important that the people of God know that the words we keep are the words of the Father.

- (John 17:6b–8 ESV) ... and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. 8 For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

- The people of God have kept the Father's word.
- Have received the truth that Jesus came from the Father.
- Have believed that the Father sent Jesus.

- E. Jesus is praying for his very own who are also the Father's very own and who are still in the world that the Father would keep them in his name.

- (John 17:9–11 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. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

- Jesus prays for the people given to him by the Father, not the people of the world.
- The people of God belong to the Father and the Son and Jesus is glorified in us.
- Jesus speaks as though he had already left.
- Jesus prays that the Father would keep us in his name.

- F. Jesus kept and guarded those which were given to him while he was in the world in the Father's name.

- (John 17:12 ESV) While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

- G. Jesus prays for the Father to watch over his disciples who will remain in the world when he is gone.

- (John 17:13–16 ESV) But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 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. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Jesus' checklist before departure ...

- Jesus speaks necessary things before he leaves so that we may have his joy fulfilled in ourselves.
- He has given us the Father's word.
- His request is not to take us out of the world but to keep us from the evil one.
- He states that we are other worldly.

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus prays that the Father would sanctify his people.

- (John 17:17–19 ESV) Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18
As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19
And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

2. Observations from the plain statements Jesus makes in his prayer.

A. Jesus prays that the Father would set his followers apart and make them holy with the truth.

Sanctify ... ἁγιάζω [hagiazō] – to be set apart; to make holy, to cause one to have the quality of holiness; to make as dedicated to God; dedicate people to God; either in becoming more distinct, devoted, or morally pure.

B. Jesus states that the Father's word is truth.

C. Jesus states that he sends his followers into the world as the Father sent him into the world.

D. Jesus says he will finish the work to which he was set apart so that the Father could set apart his followers based on his finished work on the cross.

3. Reasoned, biblical judgments we can make based on the plain statements of Jesus.

A. We, as the people of God, are to be set apart and made holy.

B. Truth is the main ingredient God will use to set us apart and make us holy.

C. Specifically it is God's word that is the truth by which he sets us apart and makes us holy.

17 Truth ... ἀλήθεια [al·ay·thi·a] – objective truth; what is true in any matter under consideration; in reality, in fact, certainly; that which is honest in expression and free from affection, pretense, simulation, falsehood, deceit.

D. To be ready and able to be sent out into the world to do the works of Jesus we must be set apart from the world by the truth of the word of God.

E. Anyone who turns aside from the truth of the word of God—adding to or taking away—will not be a fit vessel to serve Jesus and share his gospel.

F. This is an essential truth to which we must pay much more careful attention when calling and sending pastors, teachers and missionaries into the harvest fields of this world if we are to honor our Lord.

- (Hebrews 2:1 ESV) Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.