

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

JULY 1ST-2ND, 2023 // GOSPEL OF JOHN

## GLORIFY THE SON (JOHN 17:1-5)

For the past three and a half years, Jesus had an earthly ministry in the land of Israel.

- He's taught, healed, performed miracles, and revealed His identity as the Messiah: the Son of God, equal in every way to God the Father (John 10:33).
- There were many times when Jesus said that "His hour had not yet come" (2:4; 7:30; 8:20); the final act of His ministry hadn't arrived.

## "FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME..." (VS. 1)

At the climax of the story, Jesus stops to pray.

- Before going to the cross, Jesus cries out to the Father for help.
- There is unbelievable suffering and separation from the Father that awaits Jesus on the cross. Yet, He still spends most of His prayer asking for protection and unity for the 11 and for all who would follow Him in the ages to come.

## "GLORIFY YOUR SON SO THAT THE SON MAY GLORIFY YOU..." (VS. 1B)

Isaiah 42:8 clearly states that God will not give His glory to another created being.

- Jesus' request from the Father is a clear claim to His own deity: He has every right to ask for God to glorify Him because Jesus is God.
- As Jesus is glorified, the Father also will be glorified.

God the Father gave authority to Jesus the Son to grant eternal life to those who believe upon Him (vs. 2).

- Eternal life is knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent (vs. 3).
- You can't have eternal life without knowing God, and you can't know God without coming through His Son, Jesus.

To "know" (*ginosko*) is to have an experiential relationship with God.

- Jesus' faithfulness in completing the mission He was given glorified God (vs. 4).
- Faithfulness and commitment are perhaps the rarest qualities among Christians today.
- Jesus requests that the Father glorify Him by restoring Him to the position He had with the Father before the world existed (vs. 5).
- In the book of Revelation, we see that God honored Jesus' request.
- Revelation 5:11-12

## PRAYER FOR PROTECTION (JOHN 17:6-16)

One of the most important aspects of Jesus' assigned work from the Father was to make disciples, to reveal to them God's name, and to teach them the Word of God (vs. 6-8).

- For all their failures, faults, and immaturity, Jesus affirmed that they have received and kept God's Word and believed upon Him.
- In following Jesus, we're called to be a part of this very same mission (Matt. 28:19-20).

Jesus specifically prays for these men—He's not praying for humanity in a general sense, but for those whom the Father has given Him (vs. 9).

- Jesus is glorified in those who are His (vs. 10).
- Jesus is glorified through saving broken, messed up people, and Jesus is glorified when those same people demonstrate His character, heart, and message through their lives.

Jesus is leaving the world, but His disciples will still be in the world, so Jesus prays for their protection (vs. 11).

- For the disciples to be protected by the Father's name is for them to hold to the truth about God.
- Jesus is asking the Father to keep the disciples faithful to His word and mission and to keep them from falling away.
- The disciples' unity is just as important to Jesus.

God is the one who keeps us in Him: He keeps us from the spiritual dangers of falling away, from false doctrine, from sin, from hypocrisy, and He keeps us from division and divisiveness.

- During Jesus' earthly ministry, He protected and guided these disciples (vs. 12).
- The only one of them that fell away was Judas Iscariot, but that was so that the Scripture could be fulfilled (Ps. 69:25; 109:8).

Jesus was leaving the world and coming to the Father, but He asked the Father that His joy would be completed in His disciples (vs. 13).

- His disciples will remain in the world, where they'll face persecution, difficulty, and hatred from the world (vs. 14).
- Nevertheless, Jesus doesn't pray for God to take the disciples out of the world, only for their protection in the world (vs. 15).

As disciples of Jesus, we are in the world (vs. 15): the call from Jesus is not to isolate ourselves from society, culture, and unbelievers.

- However, as disciples of Jesus, we are not of the world (vs. 16); we are not to participate in the idolatry, sin, materialism, and sensuality of the world.
- Unfortunately, many of us either swing toward isolated self-righteousness or compromised worldliness.

## INSULATED FAITHFULNESS.

We're called to be faithful to truth and to live a holy lifestyle: we can't compromise and live like the world.

- We're called to be faithful to our mission and reach people who are far from Jesus; it is also spiritual compromise to refuse that mission.
- Abiding in Christ and in His Word daily insulates and protects us from the evil one as we stay on mission!

## SANCTIFY THEM (JOHN 17:17-19)

### "SANCTIFY THEM BY THE TRUTH..." (VS. 17)

To sanctify is to set apart for God's purposes and use—it is to be holy, distinct, and different from the world and its corruption.

- Disciples of Jesus are sanctified by truth; when the Word of God is read, heard,

understood, and applied to our lives, it changes us.

- 1 Thess. 4:3 says that this is God's will for every Believer.
- As the Father sent Jesus the Son into the world for a very important mission and ministry, so now Jesus sends His disciples into the world (vs. 18).

- Just as Jesus represented the Father to the world, we represent Jesus to the world.
- "Sanctification" is not just about personal holiness, it is that we would be set apart from the world in that our lives are lived on mission and for a divine purpose, just like Jesus.

Jesus lived His life sanctified ("set apart") for the Father's purpose in saving us, and now He invites us into that process of being sanctified ("set apart") by His truth so we can be a part of His mission on earth (vs. 19).

- Sanctification is simply the process of becoming more like Jesus.
- For most of us, this is a frustratingly slow process—but it's a process nonetheless.

Sanctification is work that God does in our lives, but we participate in that work in that we have responsibility in our spiritual lives (Phil. 2:12-13).

- Sanctification involves self-denial and self-discipline (Eph. 4:22).
- Sanctification involves refusing to conform to the world's mindsets and values, and instead allowing God to change our minds and values (Rom. 12:2).

God's will for your life is for you to look more like Jesus; that's a process, but you must take responsibility in cooperating with God.

1. Stop normalizing and making excuses for what God clearly calls sin.
2. Stop embracing the victim mentality that says you can't or don't need to change.
3. Stop trying to be of the world and of God at the same time—no person can serve two masters.

## PRAYER FOR UNITY (JOHN 17:20-26)

Jesus was not just praying for these 11 disciples but for any who would come to faith in Him through their testimony—that includes us!

- Jesus' prayer for us is that we, as Christians, would exhibit a special kind of unity that would be a testimony to the world (vs. 21).
- Jesus intended for our unity as Believers to be as close-knit as the unity that exists within the triune Godhead of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## SO...WHAT HAPPENED?

It's estimated that there are anywhere between 33,000-40,000 Christian denominations and movements in the world today.

- Many of them claim that they are the only "true church" and every other church besides them is doing it wrong.
- Why does it seem like Christians can't agree on anything?

Unity is difficult because there is great confusion about the difference between gospel, important, and secondary issues, and often human opinion gets elevated to the place of gospel truth.

- Often, unity is hard amongst Christians simply because of our own stubborn, hard-hearted pride.
- Some of us can't imagine a world in which we could be wrong about secondary, non-salvific issues, and it makes us feel important to be smarter and more spiritual than everyone else.

**Gospel differences:** Jesus is the only way, the Bible is God's Word, Heaven and Hell are real, salvation by grace through faith, etc. (Are you alive?)

**Important differences:** The mission of the church (disciple-making/evangelism), Christian worldview, Christian ethics, etc. (Are you healthy?)

**Secondary differences:** Non-salvific theological questions, cultural complexities, worship styles, and matters of personal conviction. (What's your diet?)

## GOSPEL, IMPORTANT, AND SECONDARY DIFFERENCES

We insist on gospel differences and stand our ground.

- We prayerfully and graciously work in community towards a unified and healthy understanding of important differences.
- We show grace, humility, and understanding toward each other on secondary differences—**WE WILL NOT DIVIDE AND ARGUE OVER THESE THINGS** (Titus 3:10).

Jesus prays to be with His people in glory and for them to behold His glory (vs. 24).

- Jesus made the Father's name known to the world, and He prayed that the Father's love would be the strength and sustenance of all His disciples (vs. 25-26).
- Jesus intends for us to be people marked by the indwelling love of God; that in all we do, we display that love to the entire world.

## JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU TO BE PROTECTED FROM EVIL AND BE IN THE WORLD, BUT NOT OF IT (VS. 6-16).

- Neither isolated self-righteousness nor compromised worldliness counts as obedience to Jesus' commands: we're to be faithful to His mission and insulated by the truth of His Word.
- God is the one who protects us and keeps us in Him: we're simply commanded to abide in and live according to His truth.

## JESUS PRAYED FOR YOU TO BE SANCTIFIED (VS. 17-19).

- Sanctification is a process that God works, but it's one that you can impede or slow down through negligence, disobedience, sin, or laziness.
- A lack of desire to be sanctified could mean a lack of spiritual life within you.
- How are you taking responsibility for your spiritual life? How are you cooperating with the work of God to set you apart for His use?

## JESUS PRAYED FOR US TO BE UNIFIED (VS. 20-23).

- Unity is not compromising truth, but unity is not the same thing as uniformity.
- "Unity is the union of the people of God, in all of their various distinctives and expressions, bound to God and to one another by the gospel" (Richard Lints, *The Unity of the Church*).
- Am I humble, and can I listen? Am I divisive, unforgiving, and proud?