

The Christian's Prayer Life

Scripture: John 17:6–19

INTRODUCTION

- A. Our text is John 17:6–19.
- B. What prayer begins, “Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name . . .”?
 - 1. Is it the Lord’s prayer? No, it is the disciples’ prayer.
- C. The seventeenth chapter of John is the farewell prayer of Jesus for His disciples. Moments afterwards, His thoughts turned to the inevitability of the cross. This prayer was uttered sometime *between* the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26–30) and the ordeal in Gethsemane (Mark 14:32–42).
 - 1. Jesus’ prayer in this chapter was especially related to the prolonged welfare of His disciples after He left their side.
 - 2. Because it is so perfectly arranged, it is an inspired guide we will want to follow when we intercede for others.
- D. John was an eye-witness to this prayer and the only one to record it.

I. THIS PRAYER HAS THREE DIFFERENT EMPHASIS.

- A. First, He prayed for Himself (vv. 1–5).
- B. Second, He prayed for His disciples (vv. 6–19).
- C. Third, He prayed for those who would believe on Him through their word (verses 20–26).
 - 1. Jesus prayed for us.
 - 2. Think now about the one who taught you the gospel.
 - a. Someone taught him and someone taught him and someone taught him!
 - b. It goes all the way back to Jesus and the disciples.
- D. Today, we will discuss the prayer life of a Christian.
 - 1. This has really been overlooked.
 - 2. We are to pray for those whom we are trying to reach.
 - a. How do you pray for those you are trying to reach?
 - b. Jesus gives us some guidelines here in this intercessory prayer.

II. THE DISCIPLES ARE IN JESUS’ PRAYER.

- A. There are two thoughts that occupy His mind in verses 6–19.
 - 1. We are going to notice Jesus praying for His disciples.
 - 2. We will especially notice *what* He prayed for.
- B. First, He prayed concerning His relationships with them. What kind of relationship did Jesus have with His disciples?
 - 1. ***It was a godly relationship*** (vv. 6, 7).
 - a. Jesus was showing them God.
 - (1) He did not show Himself.
 - (2) He wanted to make God known to them.
 - b. We must be careful to show the Father.

- (1) We are to point people to God and Jesus.
- (2) We must always live and teach in such a way as to cause people to follow God.
- (3) Do not try to make people to look and act like you.
- (4) We want them to follow Jesus. (Heb. 12:2)

2. ***It was a Scriptural relationship*** (v. 8).

- a. This was not just a little session on group therapy.
 - (1) They did not talk about family troubles.
 - (2) They were not discussing how to succeed in business.
 - (3) They were not talking about personal sins with a prayer partner or discussing everyone else's sins.
- b. Jesus gave them God's Word.
 - (1) They studied the Scriptures.
 - (2) It was no accident that fifty days later, on Pentecost, Peter stood up to preach and his sermon was filled with Scripture.

3. ***It was a unique relationship*** (vv. 9, 10).

- a. He was not praying that the disciples be *isolated*, but *insulated* (v. 15).
 - (1) He did not ask God to take them out of the world.
 - (2) Just ask God to keep them from the Evil One.
- b. We cannot isolate our children.
 - (1) They grow up.
 - (2) They leave home.
 - (3) They cannot be kept behind the walls.
 - (4) You can intercede for them: "God keep them from . . ."
- c. The same is true of the people we are teaching.

4. ***He prays that their joy might be enriched*** (v. 13).

- a. He wanted them to be joyful.
- b. Christians are to be joyful. (James 1:2)
 - (1) We are never the victims of circumstances, but the victors over circumstances.
 - (2) We will suffer, but we can still be joyful.

5. ***He wanted them sanctified*** (v. 17).

- a. The word *sanctify* means set apart for a purpose.
- b. What was the purpose?
 - (1) Verse 18 indicates the purpose: "As thou didst send me into the world, even so sent I them into the world."
 - (2) He was sending them into the world.
- c. Do you have that commission of being sent out into the world?
 - (1) Did you tell someone about Jesus this week?
 - (2) Is there someone who can point to you and say, "My life has been so much better this past year because you told me about Jesus"?

- (3) He was sent, and He now sends us. “Jesus therefore said to them again, Peace be unto you: as the Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21).
- (4) We have been taught; now we need to teach others.

III. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION FOR US TODAY?

A. Jesus had a true relationship with His disciples.

1. What was true then is true today.
 - a. He prayed for them.
 - b. He prays for us.
 - c. He cares about your every need.
2. Bring your needs to Him. (Jer. 33:3)

B. What the task was then, it still is today.

1. What was the task? (Read verses 17 and 18.)
2. We are to be in the world, telling the story of Jesus.

CONCLUSION

A. We have talked about “The Christian’s Prayer Life.”

1. Let us be praying for each other.
2. Let us have a godly relationship.
3. Let us have a scriptural relationship.
4. Let us have a unique relationship.
5. Let us have a concern to protect, guide, and keep each other.

B. Remember:

1. Pray without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17)
2. Prayer of a righteous man, availeth much. (James 5:16)
3. God hears not the sinners. (John 9:31)
4. The Proof. (Isaiah 59:1-2)
5. Washing away of sins. (Acts 22:16)
6. Forgiveness of sins. (Acts 2:38)
7. Baptism with right motive. (1 Peter 3:21)
8. After baptism sins. (1 John 1:7, 9)