

## Jesus' Prayer for You

John 17:1-26

Sunday, February 10, 2019 am

Of all the people who have ever lived, who would you most prefer to have prayed for you – Moses had a powerful relationship with God – Elijah's power is demonstrated in mighty ways in I Kings 17 and 18 – Paul would be an awesome choice – but what about Jesus Himself? *Luke 22:31-34*  
In John 17 Jesus prayed for all of us – in verse 20 He deliberately included us in His prayer – what He prayed that night is as much for us as it was for the 12 disciples – let's step into that moment as we read Jesus' prayer in this 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### I. **Jesus' First Request is to "Keep Them" - verse 11**

#### a. Keep them in unity – verse 11

- i. Let there be a sense of "oneness" in them
- ii. Jesus prayed again for their unity in verses 21 and 23
- iii. It is important to remember that Jesus is not praying for uniformity
  1. Illustration: Discuss the unity of the different materials in an automobile that yield their individual qualities for the benefit of the whole.
- iv. Before the fulfillment of this prayer there was jealousy among the disciples but after the prayer, they were in one accord – Acts 4:32

#### b. Keep them from evil – John 17:15

- i. *The Living Bible* reads – “Keep them safe from Satan’s power.”
- ii. Throughout Jesus’ ministry He delivered people from Satan’s power
- iii. Examples: look at the woman at the well – chapter 4; the Gadarene demoniacs – Matthew 8
- iv. Jesus does not want us to be pushed around by Satan
- v. If the Father hears the Son’s prayer it is possible to win the battle with sin and Satan and live victoriously

## II. **Jesus’ Second Request is “Let Them Have Joy”**

- a. John 17:13 in the Amplified reads – “I am coming to You. I say these things while I am still in the world, so that My joy may be made full and complete and perfect in them – that they may experience My delight fulfilled in them, that My enjoyment may be perfected in their own souls, that they may have My gladness within them filling their hearts”.
- b. Jesus delighted in fulfilling the Father’s will
- c. We should have delight and gladness in our relationship with our Father
- d. Many people have a misconception of Christianity – they see it as a negative, joy-robbing experience.
- e. It is a positive, exciting experience that should radiate on our faces.
- f. For too long the lie about Christianity has prevailed.
- g. The truth is, living for Jesus offers the highest pleasure in life.

### III. Jesus' Third Request is "That They May be Sanctified"

- a. One of the key meanings of the word "sanctified" in verse 17 is "set apart for sacred use."
- b. In the same way that God used Mount Sinai for His purpose to declare Himself, He also wants to use us now.
- c. Jesus was set apart to bring glory to the Father and so should we be.
- d. Jesus prays for us to be set apart to bring glory to the Father in our world.

Before we look at the final request – note the explanation in verse 21 – Jesus wants them kept from the prison of sin so that the world might know that God is in control – He wants them kept in unity and love to show the world that Christians are different – He wants the believers to have joy and gladness to show the world that we have what it is looking for – He wants them sanctified so that His beauty can come through the crust of our humanity.

**Jesus' fourth and final request in His prayer is in verse 24 – we know where He is – Heaven and we want to spend eternity with Him.**

Jesus spent some of the final moments of His life interceding with the Father with these requests – I want them to be a part of my life – How about you?