

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

John 17:6-19

Jesus Prays Series

Perfect Health - revealed – 2 DAYS TO LIVE.

- A) If you knew that you had two days to live, -
- ❖ How would you spend those two days? –
 - ❖ Who would you spend them with?

B) What Kind of conversations would you have?
1) HOW WOULD YOU PRAY?

C) That is exactly what makes John 13-17 such an AMAZING portion of scripture. –

- ❖ JESUS HAS ONE DAY TO LIVE!

D) He chooses to spend it with His closest friends – His Disciples.

1) Upper room – Last Meal – Last words -

E) Remarkable – We get to hear Him pray!

John 17 is sacred ground – Holy of Holies -

A) Hear the heart of Jesus – talks with His father – about His Mission – His Men – The Church.

B) Breakdown of the prayer

- ❖ V.1-5 Jesus prays for Himself
- ❖ V.6-19 Jesus prays for His disciples
- ❖ V.20-26 Jesus prays for the Church

B) Today we are considering the 2nd section – Jesus prays for His Disciples!

C) Begins v.6-10 Jesus gives us some insights – concerning the Characteristics of His Disciples.

- ❖ Called out ones
- ❖ Kept the word
- ❖ Believed He was sent from God
- ❖ Those He has Left in the World – Purpose - Those He is glorified in.

V.6 Called out ones – Given to Him out of the World!

A) Starts with a calling – the Holy Spirit tugging on our hearts to follow Jesus

B) V.6 Disciples are those who have kept His word

C) Disciple = learner, a follower. Follows intently

1) One who follows another – deep respect – wants to be like them. Philosophers - Aristotle – Socrates

The Great commission: - MAKE DISCIPLES – not CONVERTS.

A) Greg Laurie – has rightly said: *Not every believer is a Disciple. – But every Disciple is a believer.*

B) Some people are merely believers – they embrace Jesus for Salvation

1) But they pick and choose as it relates to the rest – how they will follow

C) Jesus wants every believer to be a Disciple. –

1) Disciples are those who keep the Word of Jesus

D) Reason: Believed You sent me! V.8 DEITY

E) Disciples are those that Jesus has left in the world for the Purpose of being glorified in their lives – V.10

V.9 Is an interesting Statement: Jesus says I am not praying for the world.

A) Doesn't mean that he didn't pray for the world – or that we shouldn't – just means at this moment – not praying for the World

B) Jesus was praying for the MEN he was going to leave in the world.

1) Jesus knew – the World was corrupt – men and women were lost – doomed

C) Jesus is praying for the men that He was going to leave in the midst of that dark and wicked world

1) Men He was commissioning to SHINE as lights in the DARKNESS!

WHAT DID HE PRAY FOR – FOR THEM? – Essentially - 3 things

A) His heart for us – who are His disciples today. Hebrews 7 lives to intercede

- ❖ #1 Kept
- ❖ #2 Sanctified
- ❖ #3 His Joy would be in them.

Jesus prays #1 They would be Kept!

A) Kept = guarded, protected, and watched over. KEPT HOW?

B)KEPT - V.11 **Through your name!** - Fathers Name!

- ❖ Name speaks of Character, nature and resources.

So Jesus is saying – Keep them according to your Character – Your heart and your resources and power!

A)Power in a name - People like to drop names – gets them into places – so and so sent me – you're in

B)For instance – you showed up at my parents house in Oceanside – **Knock on the door – Kanye West** sent me – WHO?

1)Pastor Rob – your son – Rob Salvato – { Mom might call me – let you in – feed you – Gift of Hospitality – Spoil you.

C)Leave – stuffed on great food and fellowship.

1)So Name reveals connection

Name Also equates to resources.

A) If I write you a check for several thousand dollars – don't get excited – probably bounce.

B) Someone hands you a check with Bill Gates name on it - \$50,000 you can jump up and down excited – 1)HE CAN COVER THAT.

B)Bill Gates has a net worth of 79.2 Billion dollars.

C)Jesus is praying that the Father would keep the Disciples according to **His Nature –**

- ❖ His loving heart – and His resources.

Now listen that doesn't mean that if you ever experience difficulty that God the Father is not keeping you! – {Trials – He must be on vacation.

A)God has the Power to keep you from difficulty – and sometimes He does just that.

B)But in other times – God keeps us **through** the difficulties!

1)**Job – Great spiritual attack** – lost everything – God kept him – Job's sentiment – He gives and takes..... my heart will say – blessed be the name

C)Joseph was Kept through 13 years of prison/ slavery

1)David was kept through 15 years living as a hunted man {like an animal} living as a fugitive – every day life was at risk.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? – Psalm 27:1

D)In the midst of all that – David was saying that Life is hard, but God is good.

1)Life is difficult but God is faithful.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego were kept through the Fiery furnace

A)Jesus with them in the Midst

B)Daniel was **kept through** the Lions Den – the Lord closed the mouth

C)My Point is – these people went through great difficulty but they were kept by the Father's Name – His Character – Heart and Resources

Kept from what? = V.11 Division - In Unity
11 Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, **that they may be one as We are.**

A)Unity is important to Jesus!

Ephesians 4:2-4 I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Worthy means – Live a life that is going to weigh as much as your profession

² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called.

B)There is a Unity that exists among believers –

1)Sinners saved by grace – connected by blood – Blood bought.

C)Make every effort (Strive) to keep the unity of the spiritbond of ...

If that is the case - why does there seem to be so much division in the body of Christ today? – Why are there all these different denominations, etc?

A)The Problem: Christians have the hardest time deciphering – that which is different from that which is wrong.

B)I didn't really get this early on in ministry: I could look at other groups who did things differently – think they are wrong.

1)In reality – Just Different – Different expression -

C)Churches have different emphasis and callings

1)Doesn't mean that one is better than another – better for you maybe

2)We place a strong emphasis on the word - ANOTHER church might place a bigger emphasis Music and worship.

Hillsong – Music – amazing – the Church is singing – Love Jesus!

A)Not as strong in Bible teaching - { God is using them – people getting saved { **Things we disagree? Yes**

B)But I could easily sit down with them – rejoice in the things we do agree in.

C)We are unified – we just need to strive to keep it – Focused on connected by the gospel.

D)Harvest America is a good example of that-

Last week in Dallas AT&T stadium –

1)100,000 people gathered - 700 churches participated

E)Result – over 6,500 people made decisions

Jesus prays for His Disciples:

#1 Kept - Kept in Unity – Kept from Division.

Also

❖ **V.15 The evil one.**

A)Jesus is NOT praying – Kept from persecution

B)He has already told them – EXPECT IT – HATED ME – HATE YOU.

C)Note Jesus says - **15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world,**

D)**Wouldn't that be easier?** – Become a Believer – Rapture -

1) Or - Christian Bubble – Christian Work place – live in a Christian community

D) Christian restaurants/ movie theaters – all edited flicks – / Gyms – only Christian music –

1) Newspapers – Biblical perspective –

In some ways that sounds ideal – Great – Christian Utopia/ So perfect that the unbeliever is going to look on and want to be a part.

A)Like a kid peering thru the window of a toy store or candy store – longing to go inside.

B) Problem is this – there is nothing within that life that is going to appeal to his flesh

1) Natural man is driven by the flesh

C) So quite frankly He is not going to pay much attention.

Although that sounds ideal that is not what God has chosen to do!

A)No – Jesus says – **not asking you to take them out of the world**

B) **V.18 – As You sent Me into the world – I am sending them.**

C) A world He says that is going to hate them, like it hated me.

1)Sending them – with Your power – Your resources and with Your message - GOOD NEWS

SO what does it mean when He says – Prays Kept from the evil one?

A)Answer is this: Satan is called the God of this world – He has a system – an ideology – a mindset.

B)His mindset is simply this: You are the center of the world – everything revolves around you .

C)**You are the captain of your destiny! –**

1)Bible says – Jesus is the Center – our lives are to REVOLVE around Him.

So what does it mean to be in the World but not of it?

It is really the difference between being a Thermostat vs a Thermometer.

A)A Thermometer – is influenced by the culture – It gives the temperature of it's environment -

B)Sometimes Christians who get caught up in the World –read the temperature – of their environment.

1) **Hear it in their speech** – their attitudes – impacted by the culture – that is what they are registering –

C) A Thermostat is used **to set** the TEMPERATURE

D) That is Jesus' heart for us living in the world but not of the world

1) Not to be impacted by the culture – But to IMPACT OUR CULTURE

How do we do that? - Jesus prays not just Kept - #2 Sanctified.

A) Sanctified = Set apart or Separate/ Special purpose

B) This Shirt – set apart from the rest in Closet –

C) **Fine China - Special occasion - versus Paper plates**

1) Surgical tools – sterilized and set apart/ **special....**

Now when the Bible speaks of our lives being Sanctified – or Set apart

A) Always in the context of set apart not just from **something – but to SOMEONE!**

Aa) Set apart from the World and to Jesus – set apart from – distractions and to JESUS.

B) **PEOPLE MISS THIS ALL THE TIME!** –

1) Think being **separate is a Drag** – Can't do this / that – Can't go there

C) Miss the all important truth that before Jesus calls us to walk away from anything – or anywhere -

1) Calls us to COME TO HIM – BE SEPERATED TO HIM!

D) **Love Relationship** – We love Him because He first loved us.

I can always tell people around the Church who are falling in Love

A) They start sitting together in Church.

Walking in hand in hand - / **Dressing alike**

B) They start losing weight and getting in Shape.

1) Funny how that often changes after marriage

C) People who are falling in Love – LIVE separated lives – An exclusive relationship – **Dating Denise -**

1) I Wasn't seeing other women – too. My Heart was Separated to Hers.

People who are falling in love start spending more time with each other and less with friends.

A) And again it is not a Drag that they are not spending time with friends – it is a preference.

B) Their affections are growing toward that person

1) My Friends – dating Denise – Denise have a ball and chain around your neck? - No, she's cuter and funnier

Same is true with Jesus – Growing in our walk with Him – Naturally gravitate toward Him

A) Gravitate toward things that enhance your relationship with Him

B) **Gravitate Away from things that negatively affect our relationship with Him.**

C) I don't need to do that anymore – don't need to go there –

1) Suddenly those things that used to attract you don't anymore.

D) Reason is Your affections are caught up in JESUS!

SO JESUS PRAYS – Sanctified – set apart to Jesus – and from the World

V.17 Sanctify them by Your Truth. Your word is truth.

A) The dynamic behind sanctification is **truth.**

B) The word of God **read, heard, understood and applied.**

C) We are not sanctified by **warm emotions** – Not sanctified by **a cause or a purpose.**

1) Variety of religions can come together to help victims in Haiti -

D) The thing that sets Christians apart from the World is the Truth of God's word!

True sanctification (being set apart for God) comes through the ministry of the Word of God.

A) **“Now you are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you”** (John 15:3).

B) God’s word cleanses our minds – and transforms our hearts.

1) Our whole way of thinking is impacted by the word.

“The more truth you believe, the more sanctified you will be. The operation of truth upon the mind is to separate a man from the world, and unto the service of God.” (Spurgeon)

When you were saved, you were set apart for God.

A) As you grow in your faith, **through the study of God’s Word** you experience more and more sanctification.

B) RESULT: **You love sin less and you love God more.**

C) One of the first steps toward a worldly life is the neglect of the Word of God.

D) D.L. Moody wrote in the front of his Bible, **“This book will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from this book.”**

E) The dynamic behind sanctification is **truth**.

1) The word of God **read, heard, understood and applied**.

Jesus prays – Kept – Sanctified - #3 V.13 His Joy would be fulfilled in them!

A) Jesus wants their lives to be filled with His Joy!

B) Important to note: there is a difference between Happiness and Joy!

C) Happiness is an emotion that is based on favorable circumstances.

1) Tax season – GET A NICE TAX return I would be happy – **HAPPY DANCE.**

D) One of the benefits of having kids in the home – Dependents Tax deduction –

1) I would always get a nice tax return. (Now we pay – no longer exciting)

E) But then We would always use the tax return money for our vacation. –

1) Vacation would be determined by the return – Good – Maui – Bad – camping

Remember one year: Nice return – happy – VACATION –

A) A few days later Truck broke down, Refrigerator Broke – something else broke

B) NOT HAPPY – FROM ONE EMOTION TO THE NEXT EXTREME

1) Top of the world – to down in the dumps

C) Happiness is based on Happenings – tied to circumstances and therefore is unstable.

1) **Joy is different** – Joy is not founded on physical circumstances at all.

D) Joy is not based on SOMETHING – it’s based on SOMEONE!

1) Joy is founded on ONE UNSHAKEABLE BEING – GOD HIMSELF

God has placed His spirit in us – One aspect of the fruit of the Spirit is Joy!

A) Joy is based on our relationship to Him – it goes beyond emotions – beyond circumstances.

B) WE can be sad emotionally and still be full of Joy

1) Hearts at rest in the Lord – His Providence – His faithfulness

C) Take away everything – I still have you!

Notice: Jesus says: My Joy in them!

A) This is insightful – What is Jesus about ready to do? **He is going to the Cross**

V. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

B) He is fulfilling HIS MISSION.

1) Saw in our study last time V.1-5 Jesus was consumed with the glory of the Father –

C) Glory – revealed as Jesus carried out the mission.

1) There was Joy in Jesus’ life in Doing that!

Hebrews 12:2 **“who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the**

shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

D)He prays that His disciples would know that Joy!

Insight: There is Joy in doing the will of the Father.

A)There is Joy in carrying out – His will and plan for your life!

B) DOING THE FATHERS WILL.

What is the Fathers Will?

#1 SAVED

#2 Become DISCIPLE

#3 Be FRUITFUL –

Jesus Praying for you today.

Right choices