

Jesus Prays for His Disciples Part 1

John 17:6-10

The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus Series

17 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

6 “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Pray

It is interesting to hear what is on people’s minds when they know the end of their life is coming.

A)Examples – The hedonistic Author Oscar Wilde – lay dying in a shabby Paris hotel room –

B)He uttered these words to the attendant who was trying to take care of him

“My wallpaper and I are fighting a duel to the death. One or the other of us has to go.” (*He died a few days later — the wallpaper stayed.*)

Dietrich Bonhoeffer -The German Pastor and theologian, executed by the Nazis, said to a fellow prisoner: “This is the end — but for me, the beginning of life.”

His words became a testament of hope amid His suffering.

Joan of Arc burned at the stake: “Hold the cross high that I may see it through the flames.”

Her martyrdom became a rallying cry for French national identity and faith in divine mission, inspiring countless generations.

What people say when they know they are looking death in the face often reveals what is most important to them.

A)Sometimes it is a confession – sometimes it is a plea for forgiveness – sign of the guilt they have been carrying for years

B)Sometimes it is instructions or sentiments – last thoughts revealing what is most important to them

John 17 brings us to the night before Jesus is going to go to the cross

A)He is meeting in an upper room with his Disciples, his closest followers

B)He knows he is going to die the next day – that is why he begins this prayer by saying – the Hour has come.

C)The scene actually begins in Chapter 13 –

D)Chapters 13-17 reveal this final meeting Jesus had with his disciples before Calvary

He is meeting with them in an upper room in Jerusalem

A)Ch. 13 begins with the same phrase - Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. John 13:1

B)This night he will share His last words - It has been a night of teaching – Important teaching on the Holy Spirit

C)But also a night of Consternation –he has told them he is going to leave them

1)He has told them that he is leaving and one of them is going to betray him

D)Judas is gone at this point – Only 11 are left in room

He has told them All of them would forsake him –
A)even Peter – the Rock – would deny that he even knew him not 1X not 2X but 3X

B)Imagine the confusion and the consternation that would have been going on in their hearts. –

C)the Disciples are no doubt disturbed - Horrified – bewildered

D)And it is in this moment – That Jesus turns to pray for these men who have been with him for the past 3 years.

It has been an interesting three years to say the least
A)There have been many high points – Healings, miracles, dead raised, blind see, demons cast out –

B)storms stilled – walking on water
1)But there have been many low points too. –

C)The flaws within this group of men have been readily on display. - A Motley crew.

James and John – nick named Sons of Thunder because they wanted to Nuke a City –
A)Call down fire from heaven Because of the cities rejection of Jesus –

B)You want us to call down fire from Heaven and destroy this place? –

C)Jesus says guys – chill out – you don't know what kind of spirit you are exemplifying right now –
1)but it is not my spirit

Another time when parents wanted to bring their kids to be blessed by Jesus –
A)These guys rebuked the parents – Jesus is too busy for that.

B)Jesus was like guys – don't do that I love kids let them come

They were territorial in their ministry.
A)Others were doing ministry for God – but they weren't in this select group with Jesus –

B)SO these guys rebuked them Jesus again – Guys chill out don't do that – he is not against us is for us

C)Jesus at one point calls Peter an instrument of Satan –

1)because Peter rebuked Jesus for his talk about going to the Cross - Bad PR Jesus

D)Get behind me Satan

Pride issues –

A)Even after 3 years of being with Jesus almost 24/7

B)they were still arguing about who among them was the greatest

C)In fact James and John got their mother to come and ask Jesus

1)if when he came into his kingdom her boys sit on right and left

D)Can they also be on the throne – as your right and left had men –

1)we all know they really are the greatest.

Even on this night they are all still jockeying for position –

A)See it was customary when you came into a home
1)The servant who was lowest on staff structure pole had the job of washing the guest feet

B)But on this night – there is no servant in this borrowed house –

1)and none of them volunteers to wash feet.

So John 13 reveals that the night begins with Jesus the master –

A)Taking the position of the servant to wash all of their feet.

B)None of them say – Oh Lord don't do that – let me do that for you

C)No they all sit there and watch him – no doubt thinking – I can't wash feet then everyone will know I am not the greatest – least

Then Like I mentioned – before on this very night –
A)Jesus knows they are all going to forsake him with the heat gets turned up

B)He knows that Peter is going to deny him 3X

C)But here is what I want you to catch about his prayer for them – it is all positive.

D) Nothing negative – no tearing down

Now what we are going to focus on today is the part of the prayer where Jesus simply is talking about these men.

A) Who they are – what they mean to him and how they became his disciples

B) Next week Pastor Jason is going to take us through the request that Jesus makes for them

C) But today – we want to focus entirely on what he says about them

I think we can learn something from Jesus here about praying for our friends and family.

A) Before praying for them, before asking God to fix your husband-

B) Maybe spend some time first – thanking God for the good you see in him

C) Start by giving thanks for husband – for your kids, your friends, your boss your co-workers.

D) It might have an effect on them as you view and pray for them

E) As we consider what Jesus says about these men today –

See 4 things that Jesus says about these men.

#1 They belong to Him

#2 He manifested God's name to them

#3 They have kept the Word

#4 He is glorified in them.

As we work our way through this we will see a progression in their relationship with Jesus that is also true of our lives today.

What Jesus says about these men.

#1 They belong to Him - He refers them as the ones that were given to him by the father out of the world
A) 14 times in V.6-19 Jesus uses the word world and 28 times he refers to these 11 men.

B) In 27 of those 28 times he refers to them in the 3rd person – them, they

C) But in V.6 He identifies them as being given to him from out of the world.

In this description Jesus is making a distinction –

A) We have the World and then we have these 11 men.

B) Now understand when he uses the term the world he is not talking about the planet –

1) the dirt – MTs and the oceans

C) The Phrase world here is in reference to the people who live on the planet

D) And specifically to those people who are living and organizing their lives apart from God

We could call them unbelievers, or people who are not following Christ

A) People who have chosen not to approach God the way that he has revealed in scripture he is to be approached.

B) So the world can also include religious minded people

1) who are choosing to not follow God the way he wants to be followed

C) John 4 – Worship him in spirit and in truth – right heart and the right way.

D) So we could say that Jesus is using the word World in reference to people who are intentionally not ordering their lives after God or the way of God.

Paul uses the World in the same way in Romans 12 when he says – Don't be conformed to this world

A) Another translation – Don't let the World squeeze you into its mold

B) There is system and people behind that system that basically says –

1) Do it your way. Do what seems right in your own eyes.

C) Doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere

10 That is the mindset of the World –

D) Born a Boy but you want to identify as a girl – go for it – Good for you

1) That Mindset is prevalent in our World

E) So Jesus says: these are the men that you have given me out of the world –

1)called out set apart from that system and mindset

So Jesus says in this moment – V.9 I am not praying for the World

A)Doesn't mean that Jesus doesn't care about the world – those people in it

B)Who are intentionally ordering their lives apart from him- HE ABSOLUTELY DOES

C)The most famous and powerful verse in the Bible makes that clear – John 3:16 – For God so loved the World –(Who? – everyone who was intentionally living their lives apart from God= all of us)

“For God so loved the World that he gave his only begotten son, what whosoever would believe in him would not perish but have ever lasting life.”
- John 3:16

So He loves the World – but here he is specifically praying for these 11 men that in V.6 we are told that have been called out of the world

A)These men were called to live in this world –

B)To live among people who were ordering their lives like God doesn't exist

C)These men were called to be in this world but not of this world – Different approach and mindset

These men were called out of the world and to Jesus

A)for the sole purpose of reaching the world for Jesus.

B)So he refers to them as the ones you have given me out of the World

1)That is how he describes them.

But here's the question- How did that happen? How were they called out of the World and to Jesus?

A)How did that happen, how called?

B)How did they go from being 11 men who were living their lives apart from God

1)and doing their own thing

C)To becoming these men who would begin to follow Jesus and who would ultimately end up changing the world?

D)How did that happen to them – how does that happen today ?

Jesus tells us how here in John's gospel – John 6:44⁴⁴ No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him!”

No one means everyone – not one person!

A)So how does a person come out of the world to become a follower of Jesus Christ?

B)According to Jesus -it cannot happen unless the father draws him

1)It starts with a tug in the heart a conviction – something is not right with me.

C)And a couple of verses later Jesus says in John 6:47⁴⁷ Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

D)So There is a call of God on a person's life and when they respond to that call and put their faith in Jesus –

1)they are given the gift of everlasting life.

Question What does the call of God sound like?

A)You might say – I have Never heard an audible voice, never had God speak to me in a burning bush or through an Angel –

B)Have I missed the call of God?

C)Interesting here in John's gospel we SEE the call of God to 5 of these 11 men – John chapter 1

35 Again, the next day, John (John the Baptist) stood with two of his disciples.

A)So here we have these two men – we learn later in V.40 that one of them was Andrew –

B)it is believed the other one was John the writer of this gospel –

C)So we have these 2 guys who were disciples of John the Baptist – How did they hear the call of God?

36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he (John the Baptist) said, “Behold the Lamb of God!”

37 The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus

How did they hear the call of God?

A) It happened when someone who knew Jesus told them who Jesus was and they believed and followed.

B) Not complicated, not mystical – SIMPLE

1) someone who knew Jesus told them about Jesus and they believed and followed

C) That is the story of many of you in this room – you heard the call of Jesus

1) because someone who knew Jesus told you about Jesus - You believed and followed

Now if You are here today and not a believer in Jesus

A) and someone who knows about Jesus has been telling you about Jesus

B) Know this: That is the Call of God on your life

C) Your proper response is to believe and to follow

3rd Character V.40

⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus.

Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

So Andrew who is following Jesus finds his brother Peter and Says I have found the Messiah –

A) You need to come and meet him also- Peter comes and ends up following Jesus as well.

B) So what did the Call of God look like in Peter's life?

C) Someone who had just met Jesus invited Peter to a place where he would encounter Jesus –

1) and Peter came and ended up being called as well

So If you have been invited here this morning by someone who loves Jesus and is in a relationship with Jesus

A) You might have even come reluctantly – bribed you with lunch afterwards – But you are here

B) Would you recognize today that invitation to come here and have an encounter with Jesus

1) That is the call of God on your life

C) And the only proper response is to believe and follow

1) No neutral ground with Jesus – He said – For me or against me

Side note: New Believers lead the most people to Christ..... Still have unbelieving friends

A) But this is also true if a Follower of Jesus invites a non believer to church – Stats 15% will come not bad

B) But if the believer invites an unbeliever to church and also invites them to lunch or coffee afterwards

1) 80% of unbelievers are more likely to attend –
Lunch or coffee = relationship -

Keep reading see 2 more

⁴³ The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me."

A) This is interesting to me – there is no middle man here –

B) Jesus went and found Philip – no one brought Philip to Jesus - Jesus found Philip

C) I have met people who began to realize there was a void in their life – emptiness inside of them –

1) picked up a Bible started reading – got saved

D) Jesus found them

My friend Jack Hibbs tells the Story of his conversion – driving down the street by CCCM –

A) He saw two pretty girls in a car next to him

B) They turned into the parking lot at CCCM – he decided to follow them

1) He had no idea it was a church – maybe a club or something

C) Concert night – music – went in and sat down – later Greg Laurie got up to preach –

1) Jesus called Jack that night

D) The rest is history

E) Guy came by the church – suicide – if open

So if you wandered in here today – wondering why all the cars – the Flags on Vale Terrace

A) Understand that is the call of God on your life today – your proper response is to believe and to follow him

B) Last Character in V.44

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

So Philip found Nathaniel and said hey we found the Messiah the one that Moses talked about Jesus of Nazareth

A) Notice Nathanael’s response -

46 And Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?”

B) What we have in Nathanael is a Skeptic – He is skeptical – you have got to be kidding –

1) nothing good can come out of Nazareth

C) Nathanael’s response is the typical skeptic’s response – I am not buying this I don’t believe that –

1) I am not into that

D) Notice Philip’s response to the skepticism of Nathanael -

Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

E) Love it – Come and see – Check it out – take a deeper look at Jesus

If you are a skeptic here today –

A) Can I encourage you to view your skepticism as the call of God on your life today.

B) Rather than using your skepticism as an EXCUSE to keep you from coming to Christ

C) Would you see it as an invitation from God today to Come and see – if Jesus is really the Son of God

Story of Lee Strobel – Journalist for the Chicago Tribune He was an atheist - total skeptic –

A) His wife became a Christian

B) He set out to disprove Christianity to get his wife back to “normal”

C) He was unable to disprove and became a full blown follower of Jesus

D) All the evidence was stronger than his skepticism

Quote

“To be honest, I didn't want to believe that Christianity could radically transform someone's character and values. It was much easier to raise doubts and manufacture outrageous objections that to consider the possibility that God actually could trigger a revolutionary turn-around in such a depraved and degenerate life.”

— Lee Strobel, The Case for Faith:

“To continue in atheism, I would need to believe that nothing produces everything, non-life produces life, randomness produces fine-tuning, chaos produces information, unconsciousness produces consciousness, and non-reason produces reason. I simply didn't have that much faith.” — Lee Strobel The Case for Faith:

I picture the evidence for the deity of Jesus to be like the fast-moving current in a river. To deny the data would be like swimming upstream against the current. That doesn't make sense. What's logical, based on the strength of the case for Christ, is to swim in the same direction the evidence is pointing by putting your trust in Jesus as your forgiver and leader. — Lee Strobel The Case for Faith:

If you are a skeptic here today- that is the Call of God to you today – TO COME AND SEE

A) Do what Lee Strobel did – Investigate the claims of Christ –

B) Investigate the evidence for the empty tomb/ RISEN

C) So here is John’s gospel we see how 5 of these 11 men were called

1) how they heard and responded to the call of God here in John 1

D) Each of them believed and received eternal life and began to follow Jesus

So this was their initial call become believers

A) But then we read in Luke 6 that Jesus went up onto a mountain where he prayed all night

B) He came down from the MT and called out 12 men from the crowd that was following him to be his Disciples

C) A call to be more serious in their following of him
- This was a call into Ministry. –

D) You are believer – Jesus has been calling you to get more serious about following him

1) Start serving in Ministry – let him use your life

You might be thinking Jesus can't use me – too insignificant – NOT TRUE

A) Listen when Jesus was looking for the men who He would use to change the world

B) Because Jesus didn't choose men from the University at Mars Hill in Athens Greece

C) or the University in Alexandria Egypt

1) Or the Forum in Rome – 3 of the top learning places in the World at that time.

D) He chose 12 men who were all from rural Galilee in Israel –

1) several came from Capernaum a small fishing villages.

These were the men who would end up changing the World

A) So first thing Jesus says about them is they belong to Him – given to him by the father out of the World.

B) The 2nd thing we want to note that he says about them -

#2 I have Manifested your name to them

A) A name stands for the total character and resources of an individual.

B) When a woman marries a man – she usually takes his last name – who He is and all he has is now attached to her

C) When Denise and I got married – you could say she took me for all I had – which wasn't much

1) YP \$700 a month – rent \$425 – She worked a bank – made more

D) Poor starting out – Honeymoon – Loaned a time Share – and a cabin

1) One nice dinner – Sizzler – Thank you Jesus

When Jesus says – I manifested your name to them He was saying –

A) All that you are -all that you have – all that you do

I have manifested it to them

B) Jesus was the living embodiment of the father - He is the fullness of the Godhead revealed bodily.

C) He is the exact representation – ” Hebrews 1:3 “ – of God.”

1) He is God incarnate.

D) Jesus said “If you've seen Me – you've seen the Father. I and the Father are one.”

John begins his gospel by saying in John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father.”

Verse 18, “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He explains Him.”

Jesus is God explained; He has revealed God in Himself.

A) So when he said “I have manifested Your name, ” meaning identity, nature, attributes, works.

B) “I've put Your person on display, I've put Your attributes on display. I put Your works on display.”

C) To these men you have given me out of the world I have revealed to them –Your person, Your nature, Your attributes, Your works, Your will, Your plan.”

D) All of that is bound up in the Name of God.

E) That is why the writer of Proverbs declared in Proverbs 18:10 “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it, and are safe.

Some Christians struggle because they don't believe that –

A) They don't believe that the name of Jesus is all encompassing

B) So they don't run to him- they try to handle things on their own – and they struggle through life.

C) Jesus says of these men – I manifested your name to them and they got it – they understood –

1) which leads to the 3rd things he says about them

#3 They have kept your word. See progression

A)The result of Jesus manifesting God's name to them was this – they believed V.8 that you sent me and kept Your word

B)Which means they began to order their lives a different way – no longer believing in themselves

C)No longer doing what was right in their own eyes –

D)No they believed and began to order their lives after Jesus

1)According to the Word of God

Remember Jesus knows on this very night that their faith is going to falter

A)and yet he is focusing on the reality that they have believed in Him

B)He knows – after this moment of weakness – they are going to come back –

1)knocked down but not knocked out

C)Let them comfort you. Let that encourage you – been struggling in your faith

D)Jesus is committed to completing the work he has begun in you.

E)Notice what he says next – What follows them keeping his word?

#4 I am glorified in them – Not I will be – but I already am

A)My glory is shining through them already.

B)They're Mine; they're Yours. They have obeyed.

1)My glory is shining through them by their obedience, by their love.

C)Guys this is so good – we have talked about the failures and flaws the missteps of these men

D)But Jesus says here – they have kept my world and I am gloried in them

Listen that is how Jesus sees our lives in light of the Cross!

A)Forgiven, Forgotten – Brand New

B)Hebrew 6:15 Abraham patiently endured to obtain the promise –

C)Anyone who knows Abraham's story would argue - No he didn't – Hagar – Ishmael – lapse of faith

D)But that is how Jesus sees Abe's life after the Cross

1)Jesus is not focused on Abe's mistakes

Jesus is not focused on our past mistakes – our failures either – Forgiven – Forgotten

A)He is not focused on what we were - He is focused on what we can become in Him

B)So Different from us – We love to focus on the past failures of others

1)Guy with wife – She gets Historical

C)Jesus never gets Historical – He doesn't look back

Recent day off – Denise – Going back – Hates going back – turn around – what are you doing?

A)Going back home get your water – less than a mile

B)Killing me – horrible this is like the worst thing in the world to me – waist of time/ she hates going back

Jesus doesn't like going backwards either – Upward and Onward

A)Satan loves to take us back

B)Advocate – Not going back/ going forward

C)So Jesus was glorified in them

Jesus wants to be glorified in us – Question is How is Jesus Glorified in us?

A)By our Worship - Psalm 86:12: "I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify your name forever."

B)By our works - ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14

C)If a jeweler wants to display the brilliance and beauty of a diamond to you, he does not put it against the backdrop of a white cloth.

D)Instead, he places the diamond on a black velvet cloth so that against the dark backdrop you can see every hue of the diamond's glory.

God puts our lives and the transformation he has done in us – up against the backdrop of this dark world

A)He is glorified in the way that we live – by our good works

B)So he is glorified by our Worship – By Our works and By our Witness

Here Witness think Testimony

⁴One generation will declare your works to the next and will proclaim your mighty acts.

⁶They will proclaim the power of your awe-inspiring acts, and I will declare your greatness.’

⁷They will give a testimony of your great goodness and will joyfully sing of your righteousness. Psalm 145:4, 6, 7 CSB

You have a story – Share your story with people of what Jesus has done in your life

A)Power of your story – Thanksgiving Eve

Closing:

Here today not a believer – Jesus is calling you?

Respond by believing

Believer – perhaps he is calling you to get more serious – become a disciple –

Calling you into service – Respond – you will be blessed!