

PRAYING In The Bible

Prayer in the Bible: Jesus' prayer John 17

We began this journey with a look at Jesus template prayer in Luke 11. Listen to the words again *“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done.”* Then read the first eight verses of John 17. It is the final swan song for Jesus on earth. The chapter before is a struggle to explain to the disciples what is about to happen. Then right after this prayer Jesus is betrayed and arrested. It is a gut-wrenching scene. The first verse of chapter 17 says it all *“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.”*

These first eight verses talk about glorifying God and Jesus for what is about to happen. I listened to someone recently say the weight of the “will” of God crushed Jesus. Have you ever heard the term “the weight of the law?” This is the moment where Gods “will” supersedes the divine, creation, and what could or should be. The weight of the “law of sin” is payment or death. People attempt to ignore Gods judgment for their sin. One final act to rebel against the “will” of God. God cannot allow sin to win. Jesus provided both a death sacrifice and payment for our sins to uphold the weight of the law. The weight of the “will” of God.

It is important to see this prayer for what it is. Jesus knows it is time. This is a stunningly brave conversation with God. Jesus has eyes on the prize. The prize is souls. He sees pain and death. Yet, he trusts the Father in heaven implicitly. Look at verse 7 *“Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.”* Then Jesus goes on to say I thank you Father in heaven. He is grateful for the words, the people, the job, and that God the Father supplied it all.

There are many verses in this prayer that are theological and impactful. The purpose of this study is to see good prayers. Jesus starts off acknowledging God and upholding the kingdom. Honor the throne you are coming to in Prayer. However, there is more here. Verse 11 tells us that there is a relationship between God and Jesus that has them on the same plane. They are working as one. Yet, if you read this verse carefully, we are included in this conversation. Does your boss feel your included in the company direction? If you are in Christ then God includes you in the plan. Jesus the Christ is one with the Father. We accept Jesus as our Lord. That puts us in Christ.

Secondly, is verse 15 *“My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.”* Did you know that praying to be in heaven is not how Christianity works. We are judgment to this unbelieving world. Believers are included in the weight of the will of God. Jesus prays that we stay but are protected. It is like Job. God allowed Satan to test Job but not kill Job. Think about your faith. God will not allow you to die until He says so. In your prayers, pray for perseverance and strength. Thank him for the people you can minister too. Do not worry about many other things like death. God is in control.

I took a prayer class in university. The professor was asked what percentage of a prayer should be requests. He said it was the 80/20 rule. 80% of the time we should be praying for others and praising God. 20% could be requests. Jesus is not asking for himself in this prayer. He is praying for others. Even more interesting is His prayer to the world. I have found that in my time as a Christian, church and the world are ok with a line. In some cases, it is a wall. Yet, Jesus is not playing the game. He prays for His own as much as He prays for the world.

John 3:16-17 *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”*

Look at it again and again. Is Jesus talking about believers? Oh, we love to think so. It is all for us. To believe (first) you must not believe. Do you get that? I have met people who say special people are predestined for heaven. That God hand picked some souls to be saved. Yet, that makes verses like John 3:16 false. He said the world but not the whole world? Just the believing ones will be called? That is utter nonsense strictly because of this John 17 prayer for the world.

Romans 10:17 *“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.”* If that is not enough how about John 17:26 *“I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

These last few verses are all about thanking God for His word. It is thanking God for a world that could believe. What Jesus is really saying is that the word has power to save. John 9:25 says *“He replied, “Whether he is a sinner or not, I do not know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!”* This blind man heard the word from Jesus and was able to see physically and spiritually. Jesus says that God draws people to Him.

This prayer is based on gratefulness. Christian prayer can sometimes be all wrong. We pray for church protection. We pray against the forces of evil. Sometimes it is for finances or safety. These in of themselves are good things. Yet, Jesus mostly gives prayer of thanks. Real faithfulness knows God. That He is love. That He is in control. Real faith does not worry because

God is bigger than the boogie-man. This is a stellar prayer because it has no walls, agenda, or insecurities. Jesus simply thanks God and asks for His word to do its work.

John 17:26 *“I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.”*