



As we come to John chapter 17 in our study we come to a unique chapter in all of scripture. The entire chapter (26 verses) is one prayer spoken by Jesus. It is simply amazing!

Many verses in scripture call us to pray and there are many examples of prayer as well. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Hannah, Samuel, Job, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Jeremiah, Daniel, and many others have prayers recorded in scripture. We are told often that Jesus prayed but only have a few short examples of the content of those prayers. For example His prayer when He raised Lazarus from the dead is two verses.

One of the most famous “prayers,” The Lord’s Prayer, is a model of how **we** are to pray, not actually a prayer of Jesus Himself. John 17 stands alone in all of scripture as written record of the prayer of Jesus.

“But of all the prayers of Jesus, the one recorded here in the seventeenth chapter of John’s gospel is the most profound and magnificent. Its words are plain, yet majestic; simple, yet mysterious. They plunge the reader into the unfathomable depths of the inter-Trinitarian communication between the Father and the Son, and their scope encompasses the entire sweep of redemptive history from election to glorification, including the themes of regeneration, revelation, illumination, sanctification, and preservation. The veil is drawn back and the reader is escorted by Jesus Christ into the Holy of Holies, to the very throne of God.” (John MacArthur)

John 17:1 - Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You,

- **The setting of this prayer**

- Jesus Spoke these things –

These things again points back to all that He had explained to them that evening. They had started the evening celebrating the Passover. Jesus had washed their feet demonstrating how they were to serve one another. He had explained His leaving them to return to the Father. With His leaving He had promised the coming of the Holy Spirit to guide and empower them.

He had given them the illustration of the vine and the branches and how they as branches were to abide in Him as the vine. This illustration also explained to them what the difference was between fickle surface faith and true, genuine, saving faith. All the material in chapters 13-16 is included in “these things.”

- Lifting up His eyes to Heaven –

This speaks to Jesus posture as He prayed. He “lifted up His eyes.” Contrast that with the sinner who prayed in Luke 18:13. That sinner understood his sinfulness and was ashamed to lift his eyes. He was contrite. Jesus was without sin and had confidence in going to the Father in prayer.

His prayer was to His Father in Heaven. Heaven was His home. The place where He had come from and where He would be returning.

- Father –

The term father is multifaceted. Jesus had often referred to God as His father. His claiming God as His Father had incited the Jews to try and stone Him for blasphemy. To claim God as His father was a claim of deity. Like Father, Like Son. They were the same in essence.

Jesus calling God His Father also underscored the fact that they were separate persons as well. This underscores trinitarian theology. Though Father and Son are both of the same essence and both God they are yet distinct.

The term father also carries with it the richness of a close loving relationship. Jesus had often spoken of “doing the will of the Father,” or doing whatever I see the Father doing, or I speak the words the Father gives me to speak.

- The Hour has come –

Numerous times throughout John’s gospel Jesus said that it was not yet His hour. On several of these occasions other had wanted Him to reveal Himself as the Messiah in an

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unmistakable way but He had refused. But now here He said the hour HAS come. The hour encompasses the consummation of His earthly ministry, His death, resurrection, and ascension.

This hour was the climax of History. God's redemptive plan from eternity past would be fulfilled in time. The hour when the serpents head would be crushed (Genesis 3:15). The hour had come when all the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah's death would be fulfilled.

The hour spoken of in Isaiah 53 would come to pass –
*"But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed."*

The hour had come when the sinless One would be made sin for believers that they "might become the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Cor 5:21)

The hour had come when the shadows of the OT sacrifices would give way to the reality of the final and sufficient sacrifice – "behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

The hour when Christ would triumph over Satan, defeat sin and death, and redeem a people for Himself.

It was HIS hour, It was THE hour.

- **The substance of this prayer**

"glorify your son, that the son may glorify you."

Throughout His ministry Jesus was continually "seeking the glory of the one who sent Him." The events of His birth brought glory to God; as did His teaching, His miracles, and His death and resurrection. He had come "not to do My own will but the will of Him who sent Me."

Just as Jesus had glorified the Father the Father had glorified Him. John 8:54 - Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me."

God had affirmed Him at His baptism – Matthew 3:16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The Father had demonstrated the Jesus was truly the Son through His miracles as well. John 11:4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

Even the events of His death and resurrection would result in the glory of the Son – a glory that He would share with the Father.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

Jesus had come from the glory of Heaven and He would return to that glory that He had with the Father from eternity past.

The Son would be glorified in the cross. The Roman's and the Jews saw the cross as a place of shame. Jesus would be lifted up on a cross. He would bear our shame, but He would be glorified. We glorify Him for what He did for us. The Father glorifies the Son and the Son glorifies the Father.

The prayer in John 17 readily divides into three sections.

- Jesus prayer for Himself – v 1-5
- Jesus prayer for the disciples – v 6-19
- Jesus prayer for the church – v 20-26

Through all of these sections though the focal point is the glory of God, being manifested through the cross. The prayer also forms a transition from Christ's earthly ministry to His heavenly ministry of interceding for us.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. (Hebrews 4:14-15)

Bible Studies:

7:00 am Tuesdays: Bible Study – Governor's Large Conference Room – Open to All: Legislators, Constitutional Officers, Lobbyists, Staff

8:00 pm Wednesday: Legislator Only Bible Study – Red Rosa

