

JOHN 17:1-19

JESUS PRAYS

As this final evening comes to a close, Jesus turns from speaking to His disciples and begins praying to His Father.

He prays first about His mission. The “hour” has come when God’s glory will be revealed fully through the cross. Jesus has made the Father known; and through Him, eternal life is now open to all who believe.

Then Jesus turns the focus of His prayer toward the disciples. He knows what is coming: confusion and scattering. Yet, He does not ask that they be taken out of the world. Instead, He prays that they would be protected and set apart within it. “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth” (17:17).

Like Jesus, they are being sent on a difficult mission in a hostile world. And their strength will not come from themselves, but from being grounded in God’s truth and sustained by His care.

In this moment, we see the heart of Jesus—deeply committed to His people. Even as He faces the cross, He is praying for them.

DAILY READINGS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| I. JOHN 17:1-19 | V. PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18 |
| II. COLOSSIANS 1:3-14 | VI. ROMANS 12:1-21 |
| III. JOHN 5:19-29 | VII. 1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-12 |
| IV. PSALM 91:1-16 | |

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 17:3

JOHN 17:1-19

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ “I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

DISCUSSION

What makes a great going away gift for close friends? When and how might you want to present a special gift like this?

Read John 17:1-19 aloud.

In verses 1-5, what does Jesus ask the Father for? What do these verses reveal about His relationship with the Father and His mission?

Jesus defines eternal life in verse 3. How is His definition different from how people may think about eternal life?

According to verses 6-10, how does Jesus describe His disciples and their relationship to the Father? What stands out to you about how He speaks about them?

In verses 11-16, what specifically does Jesus ask the Father to do for His followers? What kinds of dangers or challenges is He preparing them for?

Jesus says His followers are “in the world but not of the world.” What do you think that tension looks like in real life today?

Verse 17 says, “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” What do you think it means to be sanctified? What are some practical ways we can pursue that in our daily lives?

Which part of Jesus’ prayer in this passage is most meaningful or encouraging to you personally right now—and why?



“Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

JOHN 17:3