



Chapter 17

Jesus Prays for His Own

Introduction:

- When people know that death is near, their words often reveal what matters most to them and whom they care for.
- As Jesus approaches the cross, John lets us hear His prayer. He prays for Himself, His disciples, and, remarkably, for those who would later believe through their words—including us.
- If you knew this were one of your final prayers, what would you pray for?

Highlights of the Chapter

- Jesus prays for Himself — that the Father may be glorified (vv. 1–5). His request for glory is ultimately for the Father's glory.
- Jesus prays for His disciples — that they may be kept and sanctified (vv. 6–19).
- Jesus prays for future believers — that they may be one and ultimately be with Him (vv. 20–26).

The Prayer of the Overcomer

- Have you noticed? Jesus makes only one request for himself. What is it (v.1)?
- How is Jesus' definition of eternal life different from merely living forever (v.3)?
-

What's in the name?

- 'I have revealed your name to them' (v.6)?
- Name refers to 'nature' – to unfold it (John 3:16)
- Twice, Jesus asks the Father to protect his disciples from the evil one (vv. 11, 15). Why would that protection matter so much to Jesus as he faces the cross?

- For a while, the crucifixion and death of Jesus would look like Jesus' defeat and Satan's victory.

We have Him and His Word

- Jesus asked the Father to protect the disciples during that especially vulnerable time (11-12)
- Our spiritual security rests in God's power to keep us, not in our own strength.
- Jesus also asked the Father to sanctify his disciples through his Word (v. 17). How can we allow God's Word to have that effect in our lives?

Prayer for unity

- Why is our unity a compelling argument for the truth of Jesus' claim?
- In what practical ways can we demonstrate our unity with other believers?

Although the disciples face immediate danger and uncertainty, Jesus' prayer extends beyond their circumstances to their deepest spiritual needs: protection, holiness, unity, mission, and, ultimately, being with Him.

A review of this prayer

- We see the spiritual priorities: What are they?
- The glory of _____ The sanctity of His _____
- The unity of the _____ ; The ministry of sharing the _____

Questions

- What was Jesus' primary request for himself? (1-2)
- How did Jesus define eternal life? (3-5)
- What were Jesus' main requests for his disciples? (11-19)
- What did Jesus ask for future believers? (20-23)
- Why did Jesus call God the 'righteous Father'? (25-26)
- If someone listened to our prayers for a week, what would they conclude is most important to us?