

Pray Like Jesus

Today's Message: "The High Priestly Prayer Pt. 1"

Message Study Guide

Introduction

The prayer that Jesus prayed in John 17 is commonly known as "The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus". It is the longest of all the recorded prayers of Jesus. Interestingly, only John records this prayer in Scripture. It was not recorded by any of the synoptic gospel writers - Matthew, Mark, or Luke. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to John for recording this prayer that is probably the most important prayer found anywhere in Scripture.

Although the prayer is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus in the Bible, it actually contains just over 650 words and can be read in about 3 1/2 minutes. It may take all eternity for us to fully understand it. In this prayer, we are privileged to enter into a dialogue where God the Son is speaking to God the Father. The conversation gives us a rare glimpse into His thoughts and perspective on His upcoming suffering and death.

Remember! Jesus is now on His way to the cross to be crucified. The final events of His life are now unfolding in rapid succession. But here in John 17, He stops and pauses to take a final remembrance of His earthly ministry. He is now giving a final account as it were to His Father by praying this prayer.

Discussion Points

At the conclusion of this prayer, the earthly life of Jesus quickly comes to a climatic conclusion - the arrest (18:1-11), the trial (18:12-19:16), the crucifixion (19:17-37), the burial (19:38-42), and the empty tomb and resurrection (20-21).

Discussion Questions

1. In this prayer, it is striking that Jesus not only prayed for others, but also for Himself as well. What lessons about prayer can you learn from His example?
2. Rather than bemoan or become bitter, losing heart or rejecting His mission in life; rather than praying to get around the cross, Jesus instead prays to get through the suffering and dying to fulfill God's will. Does that principle of prayer fit any situation in your life? If so, how? If not, why?
3. According to John 17:2-3, how did Jesus render glory to God while He was on the earth? What authority did God give Jesus (Verse 4)? What is eternal life (verse 3)?
4. When Jesus prayed for His disciples, what were His prayer topics (13-19)?

Think About It

The "High Priestly Prayer" of Jesus falls into three distinct parts. The first part focuses on Himself. The second part focuses on His disciples, while the third part focuses on all believers. That includes you and me.

Do Something About It!

None of us enjoys suffering. Whenever we suffer, we never know when the suffering will begin or end. It literally takes us by surprise. Jesus, being God, knew that His divine appointment with suffering and death had come. Yet, He concludes this prayer by praying for others. We should all remember this valuable life lesson the next time we find ourselves suffering.

Be Willing To Change

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, who thou hast sent". (John 17:3)

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