



With the cross approaching, Jesus pauses in John 17 to pray the longest recorded prayer in the Bible. It is rich in its depth, and it teaches us much about God's priorities for his people.

One of the most encouraging experiences as a Christian is to be prayed for by someone else. In John 17, we get to hear Jesus pray for each of us. 19th Century Scottish preacher Robert McCheyne once wrote, "If I could hear Christ pray for me in the next room, I would not fear a million enemies." Today, may we hear his prayer for us and be encouraged. Through this prayer, may we learn better how to "pray like Jesus."

JESUS PRAYED FOR GOD'S GLORY

John 17:1-5. *Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

In the most difficult season of his life on earth, Jesus does not run to the false gods and “functional saviors” for his comfort.

Instead, he runs to **God, the Father** in prayer.

He regards the darkest moments in life as **opportunities** rather than **obstacles** for glorifying God. (John 12:23-28; Philippians 2:5-11)

WHAT JESUS PRAYED FOR US

Jesus prayed for our **protection**.

John 17:11-16, “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. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me...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. 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. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.” (NIV)

Jesus fully understood the spiritual struggle his followers experience in this world.

Jesus prayed for our **sanctification**.

John 17:17, 19, Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth...For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (NIV)

The followers of Jesus are “set apart” for God’s purposes.

Jesus prayed for our **unity**.

John 17:20-23, My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. (NIV)

Jesus is not referencing “organizational unity” or “doctrinal unity” but “relational unity” that can be seen by the world.

Jesus prayed for our **mission**.

John 17:19, 23, As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me.

The purpose of our protection, sanctification, and unity is that we would be prepared for being sent into the world.