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**JOHN 17 – One As We Are One**

**Last week;**

These five chapters take place on the night before the crucifixion, Jesus told them that he is going away, and in a little while they will not see Him. He also said that it is *good* that He goes away, because if He doesn’t, the Holy Spirit would not come.

He then said;

**John 16:13 “**when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.”

They would need to live and learn by the Spirit. Just like we do.

**John 17 is one of the most holy and sacred chapters in the entire Bible, because it is one long prayer that Jesus prayed to the Father one the night before the cross, after he had finished all the work leading up to His crucifixion.**

**JOHN 17 “**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.

Jesus is preparing to do the most important thing anyone has ever done in the history of the universe. He is about to die, and rise again to secure eternal life for all who would believe.

He makes this statement in verse 3;

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

Eternal life can be found only through the one true God AND Jesus the Messiah whom He sent. This exclusive statement is for all mankind,. Eternal life cannot be found in any other religion or creed. There are not many gods, or many “Christs” by which men and women can be saved. It is only through the one true God and Jesus His son.

**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.

This amazing statement tells us so much about the eternal intimacy that Jesus had with the father. It shows us that Jesus was given specific work here on Earth, that was given to Him. by the Father.

ALSO, He gives us an inside look of what it was like before He came to earth, before God created mankind, even before the world began…

*“glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

Wow! What was *that* like? Jesus was longing again for the all-encompassing glory that He shared with the Father “*in the beginning”.* He is eager to return to that glory again, and bring many others with Him into Paradise. This is the “Father’s House” that He promised that He would go to and prepare a place for us in. It is what awaits all of us who believe beyond the grave.

Then Jesus spends time Praying for His Disciples

**6**“I have revealed youto 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.

Jesus places a lot of emphasis on the fact that these Apostles, were given the Word that were given through Him by God, and they accepted *and believed*. This is very important to Jesus and John does not miss the significance in his gospel.

This series is called, “that you may believe” based on,

**John 20:31** “But these are written *that you may believe* that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that *by believing you may have life in his name.”*

This was emphasized from the very beginning of the book in Chapter 1,

**John 1:12** “to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

We can never underestimate the importance of believing in Jesus as Messiah, and son of God.

**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.

Jesus knows that He is about to leave and everything will change. In a matter of minutes He will be snatched away from them, beaten and brought up on false charges at the home of the High Priest.

Tomorrow morning He will be taken to Pilate, then to Herod, back to Pilate and whipped mercilessly, mocked and crowned with thorns. He would then be forced to carry His cross to Golgotha where He would be nailed to it and die.

But in these final moments, He prayed for His apostles, because He loved them and was concerned for what would happen to them when He is gone.

**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.

Jesus is pleading with God to protect these Apostles whom He loves so much. He asks that they would be; “kept them safe by *that name* you gave me.” “That Name” that the Father gave Him was “JESUS”. This is why we pray to the Father *in the Name of Jesus.*

**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.

**Jesus had previously told them about the “World”, that they are not “of” this world,**

**John 15:19“**If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.”

**What Is the “World”?**

The “World” in these verses, refers to everything that takes place on planet earth that is in opposition to God’s will.

It includes all our human-oriented activities: politics, economics, entertainment, education, conflict, and so much more. Everything that we as humans engage in, apart from God, is a part of this world.

**1st John 5:19“**We know that we are children of God, and that the whole *world* is under the control of the evil one.”

Colossians 1:13 identifies the world as the *dominion, or kingdom, of darkness*.

John 12:31, Jesus refers to Satan as “*the prince of this world”.*

Ephesians 2:2 refers to "*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience*,”

Then He prays that they would be Sanctified by the truth,

(sanctified means “set apart”, “set free from sin”)

**17**Sanctify them bythe 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.

He had already told them that the Spirit of Truth is coming, and declares here that “your word is truth”. He is praying that from now on, as they are sent into the world, without Jesus, that they would live, learn, operate and even worship in *Spirit and in Truth.*

Then Jesus prays for *US*! (Yes, He prays for those of us who someday “will believe”),

**20**“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who *will believe* in me through their message, **21**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. **22**I have given them the glory that you gave me, that *they may be one as we are one*— **23**I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete *unity*. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Three times, Jesus prays for our Unity.

He realizes how important it is for us to “be one”, even as He and the Father are one. He knows the evil one is out there and his oldest battle plan is to *divide and conquer*. The apostles are put to the test on this one. They could have easily, cast Peter out for denying Jesus, rejected Thomas for doubting, or not accepted Matthew or eventually Paul for things they had done before becoming believers. Instead, they remained united with each other and with The Lord though the Spirit.

This is so important for us in the modern age. We need to stay united, especially because the world is becoming more and more adversarial to the church. It is important that we love one another as Jesus commanded, that we pray for one another, prefer one another and defend one another against that attacks of the evil one. Our unity is of vital importance and the devil knows it.

This why Paul tells us in Ephesians that it takes effort,

**Eph. 4:3** “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Jesus then reflects once again on what it was like *“in the beginning”* before the creation of the world, and how He longed to get back to that place of *love and glory* and bring others with Him.

**24**“Father, *I want those you have given me to be with me where I am*, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me *before the creation of the world*.

This verse gives us a beautiful glimpse into the heart of Jesus. He loves His heavenly Father and longs to be with Him in eternity again, AND to bring all of us with Him!

[ we could end this sermon here and just ponder and reflect on this amazing verse. Jesus, being obedient to the Father to leave the Paradise of heaven and be born into the darkness of earth. Experiencing all the effects of evil that he had not known before, hate, violence, wickedness, murder, etc. so that He could rescue us out of it and bring us back with him to the eternal glory and love that He dwells in, while being in the presence of the Father.]

**2nd Cor. 5:21** “For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

The righteousness of God is “imputed” to us through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. That means it’s credited to our account even though we don’t deserve it.

**25**“Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. **26**I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the *love* you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” <>

*“in order that the love you have for me may be in them…”*

Jesus ended this prayer with these words that night, walked across the Kidron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane, gave himself up and was arrested.

Jesus did it all for *love;*

*He loved God,*

*He loved His Apostles*

*And He loves those who came to believe after them (us).*

This is the love that he had in His mind and heart as he walked away from this quiet place of prayer into the cruel hands of those who would arrest Him, torture Him, and crucify Him.

He knew that by taking on the cross, He could return to the place of glory and love He once knew in the presence of His Heavenly Father, and that He could take us with Him, so He did it.

**Heb. 12:2 “**Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

As we remember His suffering and His death, let’s do it with an understanding of His sacrificial love for us, and how He was willing to do the very thing that was *not His will, but God’s will*, so that we could be together with Him in paradise.

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