

# ***“Praying the Story of Glory”***

John 17:1-26

September 15, 2014

Video - “Gospel of John 16:16-33”

## **INTRODUCTION:**

**QT:** *"A godly man cannot live without prayer. A man cannot live unless he takes his breath, nor can the soul, unless it breathes forth its desires to God."*

**- Thomas Watson**

(17<sup>th</sup> century English Puritan)

*This chapter will give us the Bible's greatest look at the unified-intimacy AND intense-urgency... shared by God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit...*

**- JDP**

*John 17 gives us Christ's own description of His mission (within the context of the Trinity) and therefore, the mission of every Christian that is in fact, faithful to Christ, as children of the Father.*

**- JDP**

*"Be a good listener.  
Your ears will never get you in trouble."*

— Frank Tyger

"Big egos have little ears." — Robert Schuller

*"It's a rare person who wants to hear  
what he doesn't want to hear."*

— Dick Cavett

**T/S:** Of all the prayers of Jesus, the one recorded here in the seventeenth chapter of John's gospel is the most profound and magnificent. Its words are plain, yet majestic; simple, yet mysterious. They plunge the reader into the unfathomable depths of the inter-Trinitarian communication between the Father and the Son, and their scope encompasses the entire sweep of redemptive history from election to glorification, including the themes of regeneration, revelation, illumination, sanctification, and preservation. The veil is drawn back and the reader is escorted by Jesus Christ into the Holy of Holies, to the very throne of God.

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary

**VIDEO: Gospel of John – ch. 17**

John 17 is in this sense a summary of Jesus' ministry.

As the prologue anticipated the major ideas of the gospel (1:1-18), this prayer reviews and consolidates them.

**Timeless Truth:**

*Jesus prays the story of glory – for us!*

**PREVIEW:**

1. *Glorifying Design*
2. *Glorifying Disciples*
3. *Glorifying Discipleship*

## I. (Glorifying Divinity & Design: vv.1-5)

*1*Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, so that the Son may glorify You,

v.1	=	Sovereignty	-	Jesus... heaven... Father
		Specificity	-	“the hour” & “so that”
		Supremacy	-	Son & Father “glorify” together

*2*even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

v.2	=	Lord	-	“authority over all flesh”
		Love	-	“to all” - “You have Given” - “give”
		Life	-	the gift of “eternal life”

**QT:** *Jesus did not come to change God's mind; instead, he came to express God's mind.*

(cf. John 3:16)

- Gary Burge

*3*“This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

v.3	=	Eternal Life = Intimacy (“know”) “the only true God”
		Eternal Life = understanding the specificity of intimacy

*4*"I glorified You on the earth, having finished/accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

v.4 = Jesus glorified His Father by "finishing" His mission

We glorify God by "finishing" our mission!

\*\*\* If it's true for Christ... true for Christians!

*Loving obedience  
unto completion = Glorification*

**John 1:14 describes it: "We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." Now Jesus says that he has accomplished this task God has given him to do (17:4). His life has glorified God...**

*5*"Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

v.5 = Supremacy of Glory... Everything is for God's glory!

Specificity of the crucifixion, resurrection, & ascension

**"Now" = "the hour"**

## ***II. (Glorifying Disciples-Defined: vv.6-8)***

*6*“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

- A. Receive & Believe God’s gospel truth
- B. Predestined & presented to Jesus by Abba God
- C. “Kept Your Word” = John 15 (abide & obey)

*7*“Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You;

- A. Transformed by grace to KNOW the gospel
- B. Informed by grace to appreciate Father, Son, & Spirit

*8*for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

- A. Recipient of God’s illuminated truth
- B. Gifted grace & insights given by Jesus
- C. You “get God” and understand the gospel
- D. Believe in our “missionary Messiah”

- READ John 17:8!!! “received” = FAITH!
- There is a certain degree of intellectualism in the Christian faith... you have to know what you know!
- The gospel is **NOT**... “just love Jesus.”
- You **HAVE TO** know what **the Gospel** is...

### **III. (Glorifying Distinctives of Disciples: vv.9-19)**

*9“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;*

1. Prayed for...
2. Given to Jesus
3. Owned by God the Father.

**John 17:9 is the antithesis of political correctness**

*10* and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

1. Shared by God...
2. Glorify God the Father, Son, & Spirit

***John 17:10 = the glorifying work of the Gospel (from the Father, thru the Son, empowered by the Spirit, in & thru the Saints)***

*11* "I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.

1. In the world... but NOT "of the world"
2. "Kept" in the name of God
3. "they are one" – "even as Father & Son are One"

***John 17:11 = Jesus praying for the unification of His children as His Church. Jesus asks the Father to keep His children in koinonia... the truly heavenly unity that only God & His protection can create & sustain!***



- NOTE: we have no power to protect ourselves...
- NOTE: the perseverance of the Saints is the fruit of God's faithfulness...

*12* "While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

1. Spent time with Jesus
2. "Kept" by Jesus
3. Guarded by Jesus (protected from perishing)
4. Distinguished from Judas
5. Component of God's prophetic plan...

*13* "But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.

1. Receive Christ's joy
2. Realize Christ's joy to the full

*14* "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1. Hearers & holders of God's Word
2. Hated by the world
3. Hardliners "not of the world"
4. Holy & Christ-like in counter-cultural living

*15* “I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

1. Remaining on mission... IN the world
2. Ransomed away from the evil one...

*16* “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

1. Worshippers vs. worldly...
2. Christ-like in walk, will, & “want-to”

- Jesus does not ask the Father to help us “avoid” the battle, but rather, to ADVANCE the battle of the Gospel... by His grace... & for His GLORY – Amen!
- There is a purpose for us remaining in the world... Don’t miss this. We are not allowed to “withdraw.” We are commanded to BE “salt and light,” to “go and make disciples,” to “BE witnesses” locally, regionally, and to the ends of the earth” – AMEN!

\*\*\* Don’t miss this amazing truth...

WE (true biblical disciples) are a part of the glorifying gift that the Father gives to the Son... and the Son gives to the Father. No wonder why God values His “children” and His “bride” so much... We are the very fruit, the overflow... of God’s loving heart --- Amen!

*17*“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

1. Sanctified (set apart) – must be saved first...
2. Sanctified in the truth (the Word of God)

### **John 17:17 explains everything that is to follow...**

- Jesus’ concern is that they will grow!
- Jesus’ concern is that we will grow in the gospel!
- Jesus’ concern is that we grow in truth in love!
- If its not “truth” it doesn’t sanctify! - JDP
- The identification of the Church should be its increasing holiness (a.k.a. its sanctification).
- The Church is sanctified thru the teaching and preaching & application of the Word of God.

*18*“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

1. Sent by Jesus into the world...
2. Sent with the same mission Jesus had...
3. Glorify God thru the Gospel - (Great Commission)
4. Ambassadors of Christ - (see 2 Cor. 5:17-21)
5. Ministers of reconciliation - (ditto)

### **John 17:18 =**

- Hear again... here again... the Great Commission!
- Christians are “sent ones” to the world!
- Christ-likeness is to BE a missionary!

*19*“For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.

1. Saved sacrificially by a set-apart Savior
2. Saved to be set-apart
3. Saved to be shaped by God’s truth in love (Eph.4)

#### ***IV. (Glorifying Discipleship on Display: vv.20-26)***

*20*“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;

1. See Acts 1:8 & Matthew 28:18-20
2. See 2 Timothy 2:1-8
3. The Church is to be a TRANSCENDANT people
4. Question: “Who are you leading home?”

**John 17:20** = this is where WE show up in the prayer!

- KEY: contemplate this... “who” is the chain?
- Who is the Church? How has the gospel been carried down throughout the generations?
  - Popes?
  - Pastors?
  - People?

- Why would so many think they can consider themselves Christians, yet NOT need to be a part of the Great Commission “chain?”

*21*that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- A. True discipleship = true “koinonia”
- B. True discipleship = supernatural “koinonia”
- C. True discipleship = both/and koinonia (vert. & horiz.)
- D. True discipleship = “so that” koinonia has PURPOSE
- E. True discipleship = local, regional, global witness...
- F. True discipleship = champions Christ & His gospel!

*22*“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one;

- A. True discipleship receives & radiates God light & love
- B. True discipleship gives away the gift of God’s glory
- C. True discipleship commits to true “koinonia”
- D. True discipleship is a reflection of the Trinity

**QUOTE:** *People live together in the name of Christ and then in his name contend for every manner of special interest. This explains why Jesus keeps repeating his "new commandment" that his followers love one another (13:34; 15:12, 17). Without a heroic love similar to Jesus' love, unity is impossible. Jesus' prayer, however, links the unity of believers to their interior spiritual life. In 17:20-22 Jesus says that the oneness we experience with him should lead to a oneness we experience with one another. He has given us God's glory so that we may be one (17:22). This is a remarkable thought. Does it imply that unity is not so much a byproduct of discussion and diplomacy as it is worship, repentance, and prayer? ...We understand unity... The problem is that we also know that there are times when unity comes at a high cost. - NIV Commentary*

*23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*

- A. True discipleship aims at being “perfected in unity”
- B. True discipleship unifies to testify!
- C. True discipleship teaches the world why Jesus came
- D. True discipleship tells people Jesus loves them
- E. True discipleship explains true relationship vs. religion

*24“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

- A. True discipleship creates the apple of Christ’s eye...
- B. True discipleship seeks Christ’s glory
- C. True discipleship explains biblical love!

*25“O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me;*

- A. True discipleship knows the “world” is lost eternal.
- B. True discipleship connects Genesis 1 & John 1

*26and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”*

- A. True discipleship knows the “name” of the Lord
- B. True discipleship “grows” in/thru “knowing” & “going”
- C. True discipleship is filled & empowered by the Spirit
- D. True discipleship is filled with Trinitarian love!
- E. True discipleship is fill with the Spirit of Jesus Christ!

**T/S      Two overall themes stand out for Christians:**

- A. *The church must be unified... (vv.11 & 21)*
- B. *The church must remain on mission.*

**CLOSE:**

*“This prayer contains the simplest of sentences, though the ideas are profound. It is proof that the difficulty we have in understanding God's truth is not in the complexity of the truth itself or in the language with which it is conveyed but in our own ignorance, sin, and spiritual laziness.”*

- James Montgomery Boice

**QT:** The church is a community that invites people to touch the glory of God, to be changed by it, and to bear it to the world. "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" ([15:8](#)). Spiritual fruit is essentially that which glorifies God. Such a concept forces us to ask hard questions about every aspect of what we do. "Is God glorified here?" is the refrain that should accompany every decision. And the answer will not always be obvious or easy. But it must be asked because in Jesus' vision, this was the essential mission of his incarnate life and now is the essential mission of the church.

- Gary Burge

The prayer recorded in this chapter also forms a transition between Jesus' earthly ministry and His heavenly ministry of intercession ([Heb. 7:25](#)). The book of Hebrews reveals the rich theological truths regarding the Lord's intercessory work as the mediator of the new covenant (cf. [Heb. 4:14-10:25](#)); here we have a personal glimpse of Him in His role as the Great High priest interceding for His people. (This prayer is, in fact, often referred to as the High Priestly Prayer of Christ.) Significantly, as was noted earlier, this is the only place in Scripture where the words of a lengthy prayer of Christ have been recorded.

- MacArthur New Testament Commentary

**Let's Pray!**