

Sermon Title: **Jesus Best Prayer**

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Scripture Reference: **John 17:1-5**

Thesis: **Here we have Jesus' longest recorded prayer shortly before his death;**

Purpose: **We can learn from Jesus' prayer concern's where our priorities should be.**

Key Word: "God's Unity"

Key Points: #1 Prayer Posture

#2 Prayer Praises

#3 Prayer Petitions

I) Introduction:

Scripture Reading is: **John 17:1-5**

A) The Setting:

1) **We are continuing our study of Prayer**

- (a) We have determined that nothing of value in the New Testament happened without prayer.
- (b) We have determined that it is through prayer that we find communication in our relationship with God.
- (c) It is the means by which we seek God and God can speak to us.
- (d) Don't let anything you do for God get in the way of your relationship with God

2) **In the past I have mistakenly thought that this prayer was overheard by Jesus' closest disciples while praying in the garden shortly before His arrest.**

- (a) On further study, I believe I was off by a few hours and that this pray actually took place in the upper room.
- (b) John chapters 13-17 are part of the Upper-room discourse.
- (c) How do I know; because of **John, Chapter 18 verse 1**, which states that "**After Jesus had spoken these things He went out with His disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden.**"

3) **So we know that this is on the Thursday evening during the Passover celebration, during what we have come to refer to as the Last Supper where Jesus:**

- (a) Washed the Disciples feet,
- (b) Identified His betrayer,
- (c) Predicted Peter's denial,
- (d) and shared the Passover meal with His closest followers.

4) **It was an intimate moment;**

- (a) The last time Jesus would eat with His disciples before the Cross
- (b) It was a time when Jesus shared some of what was most important for His disciples to hear.

5) **Jesus explained the way to the Father**

- (a) Promised the help of a comforter in the Holy Spirit,
- (b) Gave His disciples a New Commandment to love one-another,
- (c) Explained the metaphor of the vine and the branches,
- (d) And warned His disciples of the coming persecution because of their commitment to Him.
- (e) Jesus commanded them to share in what we call the communion service until His return.
- (f) Ending the evening with a time of prayer.

6) **It is here that we pick up our story with our scripture reading for today in John 17:1-5.**

B) *Sermon Prayer*

C) (The Hook)

- 1) **Illustration:** YOU GOTTA LOOK AT IT!
 - (a) A man was seated on a park bench when a little boy of about five sat down beside him and started winding what appeared to be a new watch.
 - (b) "My, what a pretty watch," remarked the man. "Does it tell you the time?"
 - (c) "No sir," replied the boy; "you gotta look at it."
 - (d) That is the way with God's Truth; its everywhere;
 - (e) But you must look for it and at it to see it.
 - (f) We do this by praying, reading, studying, meditating, memorizing and by applying His word in our life.

(From a sermon by Jeremias Fababier, fruitfulness comes from the heart, sermoncentral.com, 5/29/2012)

- 2) **While we spent 8 weeks this summer looking at the meaning of Jesus' model of prayer, here in John 17 we have Jesus' actual prayer.**
 - (a) It is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus.
 - (b) It says so much about His concerns and teaches us much about our own priorities in prayer and our relationship with God.
 - (c) **It divides nicely into 3 parts where Jesus prays:**
 - (i) First for Himself,
 - (ii) Then for the disciples who will carry on His message,
 - (iii) And finally, Jesus prays for all those who will come to believe.
 - (d) Therefore let's break this awesome prayer down and mine the gold of God's truth.

TS: **So we begin with the part we just read with . . .**

II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **Jesus' Prayer for Himself** (John 17:1-5)

- 1) **The Hour has come; what hour?**
 - (a) The hour where Jesus will face the cross and open the road to heaven.
 - (b) The hour where Jesus will return to His place in heaven with God the Father.
 - (c) Jesus have been granted all authority concerning eternal life.
 - (d) Jesus said, "**I am the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me.**" John 14:6
 - (e) Jesus is the one who is paying the price to redeem us from ALL our sins . . .
 - (f) and Jesus is the only one who can grant us access to Heaven.
- 2) **The good news is that it is open to ALL, to everyone who will believe that Jesus is Lord!**
 - (a) That means asking Jesus to forgive you for your sins
 - (b) And ask Jesus to be your Lord!
 - (c) Everything then belongs to Jesus and we are to use it as He directs us.
- 3) **Verse 3 tells us that Jesus did it so we could know the one true God.**
 - (a) And also know His Son, Jesus Christ.
 - (b) A better way to read that is Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior and Redeemer.
 - (c) If there was any doubt, Jesus is plainly telling His disciples He is the long anticipated Messiah come to redeem His people.
- 4) **The problem in the beginning is that people are too earthly minded.**
 - (a) They thought this meant redeemed from their earthly oppressors.
 - (b) But earthly oppressors are only a temporary problem.
 - (c) The bigger problem was the eternal one; the place where we will spend our time with God in the next life.
 - (d) Or if we reject God's offer, then you will spend eternity without God.
- 5) **The Glory of Jesus before the world existed.**
 - (a) John 1:1-4

- (b) And **John 1:14**

TS: **At verse 6 of John 17, the focus of the prayer switches to . . .**

B) Key Point #2: **Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples** (**John 17:6-19**)

1) **Read verses 6-19**

- (a) **Made God known – the mission of Jesus**
 - (i) Everything good comes from God starting with His Word.
 - (ii) So the disciples will know the Truth of God's Word.
 - (iii) Namely that Jesus came from God and Jesus is God in the flesh.
- (b) **Why, so they will believe in Jesus and become One with God and Him.**
 - (i) This is a theme that runs throughout the prayer.
 - (ii) When things are repeated it is for emphasis and we should pay attention to it.
 - (iii) Watch and see how many times we hear this before we are finished.
- (c) **As Jesus departs this world he points out how He has protected His disciples while He was with them except for Judas, who was destined to be lost.**
 - (i) Now Jesus prays for their protection from the evil one who will certainly concentrate his energy on Jesus' followers.
 - (ii) Just as He tried to derail Jesus from His mission; Satan wants to derail His followers.
- (d) **This protection does not include protection from trouble; but from the power of Satan.**
 - (i) They are in the world; but do not belong to the world.
 - (ii) They can expect that the world will not be happy about this and will ridicule and persecute them as Jesus' followers.
- (e) **Jesus prays for their sanctification which means to set apart or consecrate for divine purpose.**
 - (i) Jesus is now passing the torch or His ministry on to His disciples.
 - (ii) That is that it is now going to be their job to reveal the Father to the world and glorify the Father and Son.
 - (iii) We are not to come out of the world but to carry the torch of light in the darkness.
 - (iv) That is the mission of ALL Jesus' disciples and that is the mission of the church.

TS: **Beginning in verse 20 through 26, the focus changes again as we see . . .**

C) Key Point #3: **Jesus' Prayer for All Believers** (**John 17:20-26**)

1) **Read verse 20 through 26**

- (a) It is a message for All who will believe the message of the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus is Lord and that He came to invite them to join His team.
- (b) **Why, verse 21, again for believers to be "one in Christ."**
 - (i) There it is again, the theme of the Unity of Believers.
 - (ii) Although it is even stronger in emphasis.
 - (iii) **Verse 22, "be one as we are one."**
- (c) **Jesus said in Verse 23, "I in them and you in me, that they may be completely one . . ."**
 - (i) The word so comes next almost as posing a question, Why?
 - (ii) **"so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."**
- (d) **You see there it is . . . the mission of all believers is to be unified in the mission of introducing God to the world.**
 - (i) It is God's desire to share His Love with the world
 - (ii) And the church is the vehicle God wants to work through.

TS: **So what have we learned?**

III) Conclusion (Life Application)

A) **First, our Unity does not mean that we always have to agree on everything.**

- 1) **But it does mean that we are to be unified in our mission to spread the gospel message.**
 - (a) God desires that we come together as one body to share the love of Christ with the world.
 - (b) And if we are unified, then we will pray through our differences and keep the bigger picture in mind.
- 2) **We will love each other even in our disagreements of how to best carry out our mission.**
 - (a) We will seek to find unity by praying together for God to reveal His plan and purpose for this church.
 - (b) We are to glorify God in all we do if we do this.
- 3) **Let me share this illustration as an example:**
 - (a) Now that I live out in the country away from the city lights I am fascinated with looking at the night sky.
 - (b) Especially the moon when it is full.
 - (c) What a beautiful sight and yet in all of its splendor I am reminded that it only reflects the light of the sun.
 - (d) Without the sun the moon would be dark all the time for no light comes from the moon itself.
 - (e) It only reflects the glory of the sunlight shining upon it.
- 4) **That is the way with us;**
 - (a) We have no light of our own;
 - (b) We can only reflect the glory of God when the Son of God shines through us.
- 5) **How are you doing reflecting God's light determines how well you are doing in sharing God's love with the world around us.**
 - (a) Remember the world is not our home; we are only passing through.
 - (b) We need to pray like Jesus.
 - (c) We need to make sure that our purpose is God's purpose.
 - (d) We need to keep our priorities right with God and it is easy to get off the path.
 - (e) Prayer is the way to keep checking the compass so we are aligned with God's will.