The longest recorded prayer of Jesus is John 17

Dwell for a little while – do one thing – just listen – soak and listen – soak in John 17 – the most sacred text of Holy Scripture – simply listen to Jesus of nazarteh pray – no one prays like him – listen to Jesus son of man, son of God, nothing fancy, nothing sophisticated, just soak and listen

READ

He lifted his eyes to heaven and said – FATHER –

Jesus lives and dies praying – 22 places in gospels where we find Jesus praying – he is alone and we do not hear what he is praying, but in John 17 – night before he was crucified…

Jesus prays in the presence of his disciples – they and we hear everything he prays

Father 6x’s opening his heart to the one he has trusted all his life – especially now in the growing shadow of death –

In the text we hear the eternal son of God – open his heart as never before – we hear God the Son pray to his father for you for us = God the Son to God the Father – God the Son on earth pray to God the Father in heaven!

. This chapter is a great gift to followers of Christ because it allows us to “listen in” to this prayer, which Jesus prayed at a most critical time in His life: the night before He was crucified.

Jesus was somewhere between the “upper room” and the garden of Gethsemane. He was very serious when He prayed it. This is no hap-hazard prayer or shallow prayer He prayed because He couldn’t think of anything else to pray. And Jesus allowed His disciples to hear Him pour out His heart to His Father. Years later, the Holy Spirit helped the apostle John write out what He heard.

Unless we have the perspective that we know more about how to pray than Jesus did, we will do well to learn from this prayer of Jesus and incorporate some of His prayer into our prayers. As we pattern our prayers around these requests of Jesus, we not only will be praying better, but also learning from Him as well.

These things Jesus spoke and then lifting his eyes – context – V1 these things Jesus spoke – John is referring to all that he spoke on the night before going to the cross – when Jesus prays he has finished his teaching that night, indeed finished his teaching ministry and now turns his gaze away from his disciples to his Father

\*John 16:33- these things i have spoken to you – in me you will have peace – I have overcome the world and then he turns to the father to pray in the presence of his disciples

Why does Jesus now pray in the presence of the disciples? Clearly he wants them to hear what he is saying

3 reasons – so that

1. We might what is on his heart – so that we might know his heart’s desire

* Earlier in John 15:15 – he calls them his friends – essence of friendship sharing the most intimate on the Father’s heart – and now on his way to cross – Jesus shares with his father in the hearing of us his disciples, us his friends, intimate desries of his HEART! – he wants us to know his hearts desrie

1. We might know what he will be praying what he is praying now that he is on the throne – he always lives to make intercession for us – so we might know the kinds of things he is pryain gright now in the Father’s presence
2. We might be caught up in his praying – opnes his heart to his father, enter into his heart and find our heats beating with his – John beloved disciple is the disciple has the head on Jesus heart – on Thursday around the lord’s table – he remembers Jesus heart so we can rest our heds on Jesus heart – our heart beat to rhythm of his heart – soaking in John 17 – I can breath again – I find that rest for your soul – those who take up his yoke – nothing fancy, just soak and listen

Jesus pray is DENSE – thick – and easy to get bogged down in it .. go through prayer in 2 rounds – 2 ways

AS Jesus prays – he makes requests and statements – life changing requests and makes a number of profound statements who he sees himself to be and who we are – identity

Statements of Identity – His and Our’s (8)

1. Jesus is the Son of the Father – FATHER – unique son – only begotten son of the Father – only uncreated son of the father – he is only natural son of the Father and lives whole life in submsssion to his father – 12 about my fathers’ business – my food is to do the will of him who sent me – son can do nothing of himself unless he sees Father doing – 6x in

John 17:1 Father Glorify your Son

5 and now Father Glorify me

11, Holy Father

21, Just as you Father are in me

24, Father I desire

25 O Righteous Father

Jesus is faithful loving trusting son of the Father –

1. Since before the foundation of the world – V5, 24, Jesus of Nazareth has been unique son of Father from eternity past – although he became flesh- he never became the son – eternal son has always been in intimate relationship with ABBA and make it possible for us to enter into that same relationship
2. To whom Father has given all authority – V2, “since you have given him authority over all flesh” – authority over demonic, forgive sins, execute judgement – over winds and ways – matt 28 all authority – discipleship is all about learning to live under the authority of Jesus – teach other human beings to live under the authority of the carpenter
3. Who gives – exercises his authority by GIVING not by taking – V2, “to give eternal life to all whom you have given him” – all-encompassing authority
4. Who was SENT – 7x in this prayer – you sent me – Jesus lives his life conscious being sent by the Father to the world – V3, 8, 18, 21, 23, 25 – and the reason that he is sent is that he wants us and the world to know that we are deeply loved – the Father loves the world – so world might know the father didn’t give up on sinful world – the Father loves – and he is not just sent FROM the Father – but sent out from the Father - ek – sent out of his own heart – that is how much the Father loves us – who by the way sends us for the same purpose
5. Who finished the work he sent me to do – V4 – to make the Father’s NAME KNOWN – V6, 12, 26 Name was nature and character – Jesus work to make the Fathers’ name known to the world – he steps into all the darkness of our wrong assumptions and reveals the true nature and character of his Father – preaching, teaching, healing ministry – and the cross would be the ultimate in just a few hours - it is then most clearly manifest – accomplished the work you gave me to do – he did not do everything he could have done or might want to do – but did what the Father sent him too …
6. Those whom you have given me – V2, V6, v9, V24, = he says we are his gifts from the Father – stirs my soul – Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers –

Hebrews 2:11-13, I will proclaim your name – Jesus is the great preacher – sing your prasie – Jesus is the great worshiper -Jesus is the great belevier – Jesus says to his Father – I and the children God has given me – brining with him all the gifts the father gave him – **and then Jesus prays his heart out for his gifts –**

1. The hour has come – my hour has not yet come – several times – but now it has – the hour has come Father – hour to come still IS – hour for Jesus to open his heart to his Father to enter his heart and find our hearts beating to the rhythm of his -

**5 prayer points**

There are five requests Jesus prayed in John 17.

Show the Saints Your Glory

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The requests** | **The verses** |
| Glorify Your Son | 1 & 5 |
| Protect (keep) the Saints | 11 & 15 |
| Sanctify the Saints | 17 & 19 |
| Unite the Saints | 11, 21, 22, & 23 |

17:24–26 (ESV), “ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

In John 17:24, we get to see that there was something burning in the heart of God from before Genesis 1.  That word was ”desire”. God has desire and He has longing. When it began to connect with me that God isn’t just after something, but He is after someone. He is after someone specific – He is after me and He is after you.  He had two desires in John 17:24. He says, “Father, I want them to be with me where I am. I want them to behold my glory.” That is the two-fold desire of Jesus for you today. He wants you to be with Him where He is. In unity with his heart, His mind, His will, and His purpose.

Number two is that He desires that you would behold His glory.  This is what I see when I read that verse. It is – this is what Jesus is doing right before the cross.  It is almost like His list of demands saying, “Father, this is what I want. I want people that are with me where I am.  Then number two, I want to be the number one source of their entertainment. I want to be the number one source of their fascination. That they would go on an endless search and a discovery of my glory.

I want to tell you right now that Jesus is absolutely beautiful.  He is, I like to call, the multi-faceted diamond of the Father, the multi-faceted diamond of His goodness, of His righteousness, of His justice, of His love, of His wisdom.  Jesus’ desire for you is for blindness to be broken off your life. I am grateful for what we see, but I want to tell you, there is always more. He is saying, “Father, I want you to break blindness off of them and let them see me the way you see me.”  My prayer today is Jesus’ prayer. I want you to even join me in praying that. Father, I desire, I want to be with Jesus where He is. And I want to behold His glory. I promise you, He will always answer that prayer. He will keep you fascinated forever

2. **Glorify Your Son**

This is a great “all around” request! When in doubt, pray that Jesus would be glorified by whatever situation you are in or praying about.

The Old Testament word translated “glory” literally means “weighty.” Weighty things leave an impression. I suggest a very accurate and appropriate understanding of the word “glory” is “impressive.” In Psalms 19:1, when David looked up at the stars, he was impressed with their grandeur and the greatness of the One who made them. When we are impressed with something, we are giving it glory. We bring glory to God when others are more impressed with Him because of our lives.

There are several specific ways Scripture states we can bring glory to God. Read the following verses and note what it says about glorifying God. Then pray prayers from each verse toward that end, for yourself and/or for others you love.

John 17:4 *I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.*

Matthew 5:16 *In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*

1 Peter 2:12 *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

John 15:8 *This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

Now come back to John 17:1 & 5. Read them over a few times, consider how this request relates to your concerns and pray from them that the Son would be glorified in the situations and circumstances you care about and in the lives of your loved ones.

**Protect the Saints**

The evil one wants to do great damage to people. He is thoroughly evil. He is stronger than us and craftier than us. But he is not all-powerful nor is he present everywhere. This is why Jesus and other Biblical authors tells us to pray for spiritual protection. We should be very aware of him, but never afraid of him.

There are four specific areas where people need protection from the evil one: our minds, our bodies, our spiritual lives, and our social lives. This comes from the way Luke describes how Jesus grew in Luke 2:52. *And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.*

Consider these four areas and pray for your family, friends, and other believers using this as a pattern.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Wisdom | Their mental condition – thought life, walking in truth, growing in wisdom, knowledge, understanding. |
| Stature | Their physical condition – physical safety, health, diet, safety from drugs, alcohol and other detrimental influences. |
| Favor with God | Their spiritual condition – growing relationship with God, grasping His love and grace, developing spiritual disciplines, |
| Favor with people | Their social condition – good relationships with peers, those both younger and older, good influences and influencing. |

Jesus prayed we would be protected “by the power of Your name.” Proverbs 18:10 says, “The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and are safe.” What does it mean to “run into” the name of Jesus? It means that His name (i.e. His character, His nature) is sufficient for every situation we face. It means we depend upon Him for everything, that we live within the bounds of His nature and character. We live for His reputation, not ours. When we live there, He graciously provides protection for us.

Now come back to John 17:11 & 15. Read them over a few times, consider how this request relates to your loved ones and pray from them that, the people you care about would be protected from the evil one by the power of His name.

**Sanctify the Saints**

The Father’s desire for us is not only that we would bring glory to Jesus and that we would be protected from the evil one, it is also that we would be sanctified. Verses 17 and 19 states this as Jesus’ 3rd request.

Sanctified simply means to be holy. I want to offer you another word: distinction. We sometimes think of holiness as a vertical concept. That is, we think of it in terms of getting “better and better,” of reaching higher degrees of holiness. But I think we are more accurate to think of holiness as a horizontal concept. That is, as being distinct from what we used to be and distinct from those who make no claim to know Christ as their Lord.

In verse 17 Jesus connected holiness to His Word. We grow in holiness as our lives are conformed to His Word: both the written Word and the Living Word. Here are five key areas where we are to be conformed to Jesus, but the power of His Spirit, according to His Word.

1. Our motives – everything starts here. Our motives are always to be that of love.
2. Our thoughts – all other areas of our life are affected by our thoughts. We are to have and display the mind of Christ.
3. Our attitudes – Attitudes can be thought of as prolonged thoughts. They affect us and those around us. All our attitudes should reflect the attitudes of Jesus.
4. Our words – what we say matters. They are affected by our motives, thoughts and attitudes. All our words should build people up, not tear them down.
5. Our actions – actions do not happen in a vacuum. They are also affected by our motives, our thoughts and out attitudes. Our actions should reflect Jesus’ actions.

Now come back to John 17:17 & 19. Read them over a few times, consider how this request relates to your loved ones and pray from them that they would live a more distinct life by being more like Jesus in these five areas.

**Unite the Saints**

Jesus’ final request in this prayer is specifically for saints who are alive today. He prays for “those who believe in me (Jesus) through their (the apostles’) word.” This prayer has a specific purpose: that the world would believe 1) that He was sent by the Father and 2) that they are loved by the Father. Unity has a purpose: evangelism.

Each time Jesus mentions His desire for a united church, (in vv. 11, 21, 22, & 23) He refers to a standard of unity. That standard is the relationship He has with His Father. That is the standard of unity He has for His Church today.

So, based upon these truths, we can pray that…

1. We would more fully understand the relationship between the Father and the Son and our unity with the Father and the Son.
2. We would not judge other believers by what God has called us to do.
3. We would understand His Church (and each member of His Church) more the way He sees it. We really do need one another.
4. We would recognize the grace God gives to others may be different than the grace He gives to us and bless the differences.
5. We would love, respect, share mutual honor, and high regard for one another based upon the relationship between the Father and the Son.
6. That those who don’t yet know Jesus would see the unity of His Church and know the authenticity of Jesus and the availability of the Father’s love.