

The Other Lord's Prayer
John 17

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Text Introduction: We have journey through much of the Gospel of John this year—not verse by verse, but nonetheless, I think that we have been in this glorious Gospel enough to see its purpose (to make Jesus known so that He would be known by others). Today, we find ourselves in John 17. It's a prayer. In a sense we are eavesdropping, through the miracle of the inspiration of Holy Scripture, on the prayer life of Jesus. There is another prayer that we refer to the Lord's prayer. You know the one. It begins, "Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name..." But, here in John 17 is another model prayer. As one said, "John 17 gives us a glimpse into the heart of Jesus unlike any other chapter in the four Gospels." (Gary Burge, NIV Application Commentary, 458)

Text: Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said:

Father,
the hour has come.
Glorify Your Son
so that the Son may glorify You,
²for You gave Him authority
over all flesh;
so He may give eternal life
to all You have given Him.
³This is eternal life:
that they may know You, the only true God,
and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ.
⁴I have glorified You on the earth
by completing the work You gave Me to do.
⁵Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence
with that glory I had with You
before the world existed.

⁶I have revealed Your name
to the men You gave Me from the world.
They were Yours, You gave them to Me,
and they have kept Your word.
⁷Now they know that all things
You have given to Me are from You,
⁸because the words that You gave Me,
I have given them.
They have received them
and have known for certain
that I came from You.
They have believed that You sent Me.
⁹I pray for them.

I am not praying for the world
but for those You have given Me,
because they are Yours.

¹⁰ Everything I have is Yours,
and everything You have is Mine,
and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world,
and I am coming to You.

Holy Father,
protect them by Your name
that You have given Me,
so that they may be one as We are one.

¹² While I was with them,
I was protecting them by Your name
that You have given Me.
I guarded them and not one of them is lost,
except the son of destruction,
so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.

¹³ Now I am coming to You,
and I speak these things in the world
so that they may have My joy completed in them.

¹⁴ I have given them Your word.

The world hated them
because they are not of the world,
as I am not of the world.

¹⁵ I am not praying
that You take them out of the world
but that You protect them from the evil one.

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

¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth;
Your word is truth.

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

¹⁹ I sanctify Myself for them,
so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

²⁰ I pray not only for these,
but also for those who believe in Me
through their message.

²¹ May they all be one,
as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You.
May they also be one in Us,
so the world may believe You sent Me.

²² I have given them the glory You have given Me.
May they be one as We are one.

²³ I am in them and You are in Me.

May they be made completely one,
so the world may know You have sent Me
and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ Father,

I desire those You have given Me
to be with Me where I am.

Then they will see My glory,
which You have given Me
because You loved Me before the world's foundation.

²⁵ Righteous Father!

The world has not known You.

However, I have known You,
and these have known that You sent Me.

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

Introduction: H.C.G. Moule in 1908 commented this way about this chapter: “Let him who would presume to comment on this chapter prepare himself first, as it were, kneeling to worship at its threshold.” (As printed in NIV App Commentary, 458) So, can we do that today? Before we move into this weighty chapter, can we bow to pray as a tangible sign of our reverence before an Almighty God asking Him to guide us to understand and apply this prayer?

Contextual Clues that Guide our Interpretation:

1. We should acknowledge the purpose of the Gospel—Point people to Jesus so that they might believe. This is done through the miracles and the “I am” statements. **This shows us the goal of this prayer.**
2. We should acknowledge the timing of this prayer—The journey to cross is beginning. **This shows us the priority of the concerns of this prayer.**
3. We should acknowledge the relationships referenced in the prayer.
 - Relationship between God and Jesus (verse 21 represents this relationship best)
 - Relationship between Jesus and the believers (verses 22-23)
 - Relationship between believers and the world (verse 14)
 - Relationships between believers and believers (verse 21)

This shows us both intimacy and separation. Intimacy with Him and others; separation from the world.

4. We should acknowledge the distinct sections of this prayer. Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples, and all future disciples. **This shows us the specific nature of this prayer.**

Let's put all of this together.

3 Priorities of Jesus' Prayer:

- 1. The Glory of God**—Even when Jesus prays for Himself, the priority is the glory of God.
- 2. The Holiness of His followers**
- 3. The Unity of His followers**—Please understand that this not unity for unity's sake, but a unity focused on a spiritual relationship with Jesus.

So What?

Shouldn't Jesus' humility and priorities in prayer be our priorities!

Jesus' prayer brings us back to that basic idea of our Church's philosophy: Knowing Him and making Him known.