

## *Jesus Prays*

### *John 17*

This entire chapter records Jesus' prayer. His prayer can be divided into 4 distinct petitions: (Slide 2)

1. *Jesus prays for Himself and the success of His Ministry*
2. *Jesus prays for His Apostles*
3. *Jesus prays for all who believe and will believe including us today*
4. *Jesus concludes praying directly for His Apostles. A request that is implied to us*

*Jesus prays for Himself and the success of His Ministry!!*

**John 17:1-5** (Slide 3)

**1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. (Slide 4) 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (Slide 5) 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.**

The Lord Jesus knows that it is time to be betrayed, arrested, tried, mocked, falsely accused and to die a miserable death on Calvary's cross!!

***"Father, the hour has come."***

What glory would Jesus be seeking? Simply the Glory of obedience to the *Will of the Father*, to the point of death. The burden of man's sin carried to the cross by The Only Begotten Son-brought Glory to God and God allowing His death finished His mission and brought Glory to the Son.

He would soon conquer death and be restored to the Glory He had before the foundation of the world.

The result of His accomplishing the Father's will:

***“that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”***

His ministry is concluded on earth;

***“I have finished the work which You have given Me to do”***

Jesus brought Honor/ Glory to God by finishing the work He was sent to do. We want to bear in mind the significance of that accomplishment.

We might have a tendency to think that because Jesus was the Son of God with the power of the Holy Spirit within Him beyond our comprehension, that it was easy. But let's harken back on some of the challenges He faced:

We have a tough day at the office so to speak, yet, we have our home to come to and find solace and peace. Jesus made this statement regarding rest:

**Matthew 8:18-20** (Slide 6)

***18 And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. 19 Then a certain scribe came and said to Him, “Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.”***

(Slide 7) ***20 And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”***

There was little time to rest. Is it any wonder that we find Jesus sleeping in one of the most precarious circumstances? Perhaps He was tired-Perhaps He was to make believers.

**Matthew 8:23-25** (Slide 8)

***23 Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. 24 And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. 25 Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, “Lord, save us! We are perishing!”***

He was just completely worn out from constantly being on the move and constantly in front of a crowd. He walked from place to place. No car, no chariot, no horse, only riding on a donkey as He entered Jerusalem to face His purpose on earth.

Very seldom during His ministry could He find time away from the multitudes to rest.

**Luke 5:15-16** (Slide 9)

***15 However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. 16 So He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed.***

The idea of rest and prayer, recharged our Savior!! Perhaps the best time to pray is when we are tired, tired from work, tired from the complications of life, tired from illness. Any number of circumstances require prayer. Even in good times.

He withdrew Himself, but it was always short lived because of the sick and afflicted searching Him out to be healed.

**Mark 1:32:39** (Slide 10)

***32 At evening, when the sun had set, they brought to Him all who were sick and those who were demon-possessed. 33 And the whole city was gathered together at the door. 34 Then He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; (Slide 11) and He did not allow the demons to speak, because they knew Him.***

***35 Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with (Slide 12) Him searched for Him. 37 When they found Him, they said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You."***

***38 But He said to them, "Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, because for this purpose I have come forth."***

***(Slide 13) 39 And He was preaching in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and casting out demons.***

Preaching, teaching, traveling, confronting demons, healing the sick, constant barrage of multitudes of people, yet, He endured it all to bring Glory and Honor to God.

*Before His Hour had come, His work was unending.*

It was exhausting. So, to me I say, the next time I feel a little tired and wish to stay home and rest and perhaps miss Worship Service, *that is an Hour and Half* each week, I should recall what made it all possible and I mean the actual privilege I have in coming to worship My Great God!

*I saw a post on facebook about someone who had taken a paper plate and put a hand from what appeared to be from a clock and positioned it in the middle and made it so that with a flick of a finger, it would spin.*

*It had two categories in which the arrow of the hand could land. "Attend worship" or "Stay at Home." He had drawn on the plate equally dividing the two categories. As he spun the hand it landed on the area which said, "Attend Worship" several times. Not satisfied with the answer he was getting, he kept making the area "Attend Worship" smaller and smaller.*

*Yet, no matter how small he made it, it kept landing on "Attend Worship" until he finally decided to get the answer he wanted. He would have to make the paper plate with only one category, "Stay at Home." If we are wrestling with the idea of "Attending Worship" with this frame of mind, we are in deep Spiritual trouble.*

He confronted demons!! He healed the sick!! I personally believe that using His power caused even more exhaustion because He could feel it.

**Luke 8:42b-48** (Slide 14)

***42b But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. 43 Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, 44 came from behind and touched the border of His garment. (Slide 15) And immediately her flow of blood stopped.***

***45 And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?"***

***When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'"***

(Slide 16) ***46 But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." 47 Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the***

(Slide 17) ***presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.***

***48 And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."***

*When Jesus heard of the Beheading of John the Baptist, the Bible teaches us that Jesus withdrew Himself-to be alone to grieve His death-despite knowing John's salvation would be assured. He was exhausted but kept on toward the goal!!*

Before He even began His ministry, Jesus was guided by the Spirit to be tempted by the Devil for forty days as he fasted, that is; without eating for forty days!

**Luke 4:1-2** (Slide 18)

***1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, 2 being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.***

We sometimes think that the temptation just began after the forty days but Satan was tempting Jesus throughout the forty days. We don't know what was all said during that time but Satan preyed upon the fact that Jesus was hungry. In other words, He was weak and starved.

We are at our weakest sometimes when we are hungry. Some people almost have a personality change when they haven't eaten for a few hours. They are irritable and testy, yet, Jesus hadn't eaten for forty days, being tempted/ tested by the Devil as He prepared for His ministry.

This is the "Priestly" one who *prays* for His disciples who were with Him at the time and for those that would be in the future, including us.

*If the Son of God, God the Son feels the need for Prayer, that certainly speaks volumes of the importance of prayer for flawed humanity.*

Jesus worked, preached, loved, taught, healed, traveled, and confronted evil on every corner. If that wasn't enough to cause Him to feel exhaustion, the fact that so many rejected Him certainly did.

In John 7 we learn that even His brothers did not believe Him or in Him. Just a few verses later, we learned that there were many who did not believe in Jesus.

**John 7:10-13** (Slide 19)

***10 But when His brothers had gone up, then He also went up to the feast, not openly, but as it were in secret. 11 Then the Jews sought Him at the feast, and said, "Where is He?" (Slide 20) 12 And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, "He is good"; others said, "No, on the contrary, He deceives the people." 13 However, no one spoke openly of Him for fear of the Jews.***

People of that day said all manner of bad things about Jesus the Christ. He is possessed by a devil, He is mad (out of His mind), He is delusional or even insane.

If you search the internet today, you will see that people still say similar things and even worse.

Rejected and treated with contempt; this is the one who was hated by the world, the people whom He created. Yet, He prayed for His disciples who were with Him during His ministry and who would carry on when He returned to His former Glory in Heaven. And we will see in a coming lesson He prayed for you and me.

"Oh, What a Savior!!"

Jesus, let us come to know You  
Let us see You face to face  
Touch us, hold us, use us, mold us  
Only let us live in You

Jesus draw us ever nearer  
Hold us in Your loving arms  
Wrap us in your gentle presence

And when the end comes, bring us home

*Pray without ceasing!! Jesus did!!*

*If we are living for Jesus, then in this world we will feel exhausted as well.  
Keep going!! In the end it will be worth it!!*

Next week, Lord willing, we will examine Jesus' prayer for His beloved Apostles.

*Invitation*

*Today, Jesus knocks at the door and invites you to come in. To confess His name and be baptized into Christ. Become His child today.*

*If you are in Christ but need the prayers of your Brethren for any reason.  
Please let us know!*

*However we can assist you this day, make your wishes known.*

**Reading:**

**Philippians 2:1-11**

***1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

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