

20:20 Vision Ministries -- Devotions by Roger Browning
Week 47 (November 17-23, 2013)

In chapters 14-16, John has delivered the Last Will and Testament of Jesus. He now uses an entire chapter to give us what is known as the High Priestly Prayer of our Lord. We will look at this material from chapter 17 in this week's study.

Sunday -- November 17 (John 17:1-5)

Most of Jesus' prayers are very private between His Father and Him (for example, see Mark 1:35). In this text, John gives us a rare look into the prayers of the Lord as He begins by praying for Himself. Jesus reveals that God wants **glory** for the entire Trinity. In fact, man's main purpose on earth is to bring glory to God. Jesus begins by acknowledging that "the time has come" (v. 1). Up until this night, He has often said, "My time has not yet come" (for example, see John 2:4 & 7:6). The beginning of His prayer reminds us of His words recorded in John 10:17-18a (emphasis mine): "The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord**" (and in His own time). His love for lost mankind necessitated the giving up of His life—the Righteous for the unrighteous (see 2 Corinthians 5:21). Glorify your wonderful Savior today!

Monday -- November 18 (John 17:1-5)

After acknowledging that the time has come, Jesus reminds His Father that the reason He came to earth was to bring salvation to lost mankind (v. 1-2). He defines **eternal life** as knowing the Father and the Son intimately (v. 3). This illustrates the difference between believing with our **head** in the fact of a historical Jesus (this saves no one), and believing with our **heart** in the willing death, resurrection and reign of our Lord (see Romans 10:9-10). I often say that many will miss Heaven by 18 inches (the distance from our head to our heart). Jesus brought the Father glory by completing the work He had been given (v. 4). I pray that when we see Jesus' face, you and I can report that we, also, have completed the work He has given to us. Our Lord concludes His prayer for Himself by remembering the glory He had with the Father **prior** to coming to earth (v. 5). Many people in the church do not understand the fact of His pre-existence (see John 1:1-5, 14 & Hebrews 1:1-2). Do you need any more reasons to glorify the Trinity for the marvelous plan of salvation?

Tuesday -- November 19 (John 17:6-19)

Please read this entire text each day as we study the prayer of our Lord for His disciples. Jesus defines a true disciple as one who has made a choice to come out of the world to walk in obedience to His Word (v. 6). The worldview is, and has always been, wrong. The disciples have learned that all good things come from God (v. 7; see also James 1:17). They have acknowledged that Jesus, Himself, came from God and that His words that they have accepted also come from the Father. This prayer is universal for all of us who have believed in Him and accepted His Word in our hearts (v. 8). Jesus prays for His disciples here, but He has returned to Heaven to intercede for **all of His children** (v. 9; see also Romans 8:34). A major benefit of being children of God is that we are **heirs of God** and **co-heirs with Christ** (v. 10; see also Romans 8:17). Can you glorify Him for these wonderful truths?

Wednesday -- November 20 (John 17:6-19)

One of the main themes of this record of His last night with the disciples is the **unity** between the members of the Trinity (v. 10; see also 14:20). Now Jesus prays for unity within the Body of Christ as well (v. 11). Today, He is not visible to us, but we are allowed to invoke the name of Jesus in our prayers to the Father. When I go to my bank, I can withdraw only what I have put into the account, but when I go to the Father in prayer, I can withdraw what **His Son** has placed into the account. That is why we always come to the Father in the name of Jesus only. God is holy and no one can approach Him except through the shed blood of His Son (see John 14:6). Today's society is seeking world peace through a global alliance of the nations. In doing so, they accept almost anyone **except** for evangelical Christians. Isn't it ironic that the only source of **real peace** is discarded for the pursuit of man-made world peace? Remind yourself of our Lord's teaching in Matthew 10:32-39 and then accept His wonderful promise in John 14:27. Jesus is our peace! (Ephesians 2:14)

Thursday -- November 21 (John 17:6-19)

Jesus **knew** from the beginning that Judas would betray him (v. 12). This does not imply, however, that Judas had no choice in the matter. Each of us has a free will that can be used for good or for evil. If we choose to reject Him, we have no one to blame but ourselves. Jesus wants His followers to live joyful lives, even when they face worldly rejection (v. 13-14). I pray that we live so differently from the world that others may see the contrast, even though they don't accept our lifestyle. After this, Jesus prays for our protection from Satan (v. 15). This prayer is being answered daily as we live for Him alone. He prays that God's Word will make us holy as we live as strangers in this world (v. 16-17). Having equipped us with the power from His Word and His prayer, He now sends us out to make a difference (v. 18-19). My hope is that we will truly be **salt** and **light** in this confused society (see Matthew 5:13-14).

Friday -- November 22 (John 17:20-26)

Jesus now focuses His prayer on all of us who have believed His story and received salvation through His name. He desires **unity** within His body of believers. Remember that the world seeks **peace without Him**; we find **peace in Him**. Jesus does not want us to be divided over trivial matters; He wants us to be united just as the members of the Godhead are (v. 20-21). We have that unity because the Son is in the Father and the Spirit is living in us (see John 14:20-21). When all Christians live in unity with one another, the world will have its best example of the truth of the gospel (v. 22-23). I challenge you to memorize verse 24 and remember this truth when you lose someone you love. God has a reason for calling believers home when He does. He loves each of us so much that He is anxious for us to see His full glory in Heaven (see Psalm 116:15). Can you think of a better reason to trust Him today?

Saturday -- November 23 (John 17:20-26)

In today's text, the conclusion of our Lord's High Priestly Prayer should bring comfort and peace to all followers of Christ. He has prayed repeatedly that we will live differently than the world and that we will be kept safe from the attacks of worldly people. They will persecute us because they do not know God or His Son (see John 16:3, ironically the opposite of John 3:16). Jesus has taught us all we need to know for life and joy in our relationship with the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (v. 25-26). He will continue to show us more of Himself until the Day He calls us home. Give glory to Him as we approach Thanksgiving Day next Thursday!