

John 17b 17:20-18:11

20 – 21 Jesus prayed for Himself in verses 1-4, for the disciples in 5-19, and here in 20-23 He prays for all others who will come to faith throughout the world and the ages. His prayer for us is that we may have unity. He could see down through the centuries and see us fighting with one another over nonessential doctrines and organizational power, but instead of being discouraged, He prayed that we would overcome that divisiveness through love. Denominations and organizations may exclude some and favor others, but as believers in Jesus, we need to welcome into our arms and fellowship all who call Jesus "Lord". The world will have as many directions as it has people, but the Children of God should be in complete unity over the basics of our faith so that the world can see Jesus. We may differ on the form and calling and even non-essential doctrines, but all of that should be second to the love we have for Christ in one another. The unity Jesus prayed for was that relational unity He had with His Father. If we are in the Father and Son we will have that same unity among ourselves. See verse 11; 10:16; Ephesians 4:3-6.

22 Unity is a supernatural gift that comes from sharing the glory of God. When Jesus gives Himself to us, He gives us His peace, His joy, His love etc. That is what makes us one, increasingly sharing Him. 2 Corinthians 3:18

23 Jesus in us, the Father in Him, that's the kind of oneness He is praying for. Jesus again connects our unity with the world coming to believe in Jesus and understanding the Father's love for us is the same as that He has for the Son. 14:23; Galatians 3:28; 1 John 4:12-16

24 Jesus doesn't want to be away from us. He is longing to come and get us more than we are longing to be with Him. 14:3; Matthew 26:29; Genesis 45:13 When we see Him in His glory, we'll be overwhelmed with reverent awe. He wants us to see the fullness of the Father's love. 1 Corinthians 13:12; Matthew 25:23

In another sense, Ephesians 2:6-7 says we are seated with Him right now in the heavenly realm. Do you see His glory? It fills the earth. Are you looking down from heaven or up from earth? Jesus' work made it possible for us to be seated with Him right now. You don't have to wait to begin seeing His glory.

25 –26 Other than the brief conversation in the Garden, this is the last thing the disciples would hear before His arrest. It was not doom and gloom, but glory. The cross is a deeper demonstration of the Father's love, and makes it possible for us to receive the Father's love. In seeing that, we have a greater revelation of God, receive Him, and the Son lives in us. Colossians 1:27

18:1 The Mount of Olives is right across the Kidron Valley from where the Temple stood. The Upper Room must have been somewhere in the vicinity of the Temple. That olive grove was owned by someone of some wealth who allowed Jesus and His disciples to use it as a sanctuary. There is a cave there in which an olive press (Gethsemane Matthew 26:36) was kept. Today, the Church of All Nations marks the general area. Next to it are some ancient olive trees.

2- 3 Interesting to note that the great betrayals of God toward man both happened in gardens.

4-6 Jesus is thinking of His disciples. Once they have identified who they are after He says, I AM. The force of the declaration knock them off their feet. Psalm 27:2;

7-9 From John 6:39. The Shepherd's concern is for the sheep. He is willing to give His life so that they can escape. He is doing the same today. He gives His life for whoever will come to Him to escape the wrath of God. 17:12

10 – 11 Impetuous Peter lops of the servant's ear. It is interesting that that was what marked him as a bonds slave to the High Priest. Didn't He tell them to take swords earlier? Luke 22:37-38 See 22:49-51