

This morning we are continuing with Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17. You'll recall that after the Last Supper the disciples went out to the Temple where Jesus told them of the coming of the Spirit, warned them of a time of grief, but then encouraged them to take heart because He had overcome the world. Then He began this prayer by praying to be glorified so that He could glorify the Father.

He went on to pray, <sup>6</sup> "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. The Greek is literally, "I have manifested your name". We learned earlier that, to the Hebrews, one's name represented who they are, their character, and nature. Jesus' life was a manifestation of the character of God. Jesus was saying that His life had revealed the very nature of God to the disciples. (John 13:13-14)

"You gave them to me..." The doctrine of election (God choosing some to be saved and not others) is unavoidable in Scripture. Jesus clearly stated that God gave the disciples to Him. Earlier that evening He stated that the disciples did not choose Him, but rather He chose them. (John 15:16) The Apostle Paul writes that we are predestined to salvation. (Ephesians 1:11) This is a topic that has divided some of the most sincere believers. Several passages tell us that God chose us because of His foreknowledge. (1Peter 1:2; Romans 8:29) In other words, God knew you would yield to the working of the Spirit in your heart. We have free will to reject or accept the love of Jesus revealed to us by the Spirit. (Joshua 24:15) He convicts us all of the sin of unbelief. (John 16:8-9) Some of us receive the indictment of the Spirit and are born again. God knew who would.

Predestination and free will work hand in hand. How God does that is beyond my little mind, but we can clearly see both predestination and free will in Scripture. Jesus doesn't invite us to come to Him when we have no choice, but because we do have a choice. (John 5:40) We have been given the free will to choose whom we will serve. It is not God's will that any perish, but some will reject the salvation of God offered to them in Jesus Christ. (2Peter 3:9)

The last part of that verse declares, "they have obeyed your word." That doesn't mean they have kept all the laws of Moses. As we will see later, believing in Jesus is a fulfillment of all that God asks of us. (John 6:40) Jesus stated earlier, God loves them because they love Jesus and believe He came from God. (John 16:27)

<sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. The disciples had just declared that they believed He is Messiah, and that He came from God and was returning to God. Jesus had told them over and over that everything He said was from His Father. (John 12:49) They finally believed that He was not just an enlightened rabbi, but the heaven sent Son of God relaying heaven's message to man as the next verse describes. (John 16:30)

<sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. There was no

**Commented [notes1]:** 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. John 13:13-14 (NIV)

**Commented [notes2]:** 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 15:16 (NIV)

**Commented [notes3]:** 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, Eph 1:11 (NIV)

**Commented [notes4]:** 2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. 1 Peter 1:2 (NIV)

**Commented [notes5]:** 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29 (NIV)

**Commented [notes6]:** 15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of ... [1]

**Commented [notes7]:** 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in r ... [2]

**Commented [notes8]:** 40 yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:40 (NIV)

**Commented [notes9]:** The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. ... [3]

**Commented [notes10]:** 40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:40 (NIV)

**Commented [notes11]:** 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. John 16:27 (NIV)

**Commented [notes12]:** 49 For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. John 12:49 (NIV)

**Commented [notes13]:** 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." ... [4]

longer any doubt in the disciples' minds that Jesus was sent from heaven into this world, not like a prophet of old who was simply a man called by God. No, Jesus is God's special revelation of Himself to the world. (John 16:28)

*<sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.* This prayer began with Jesus praying for Himself, to be glorified and to return to the glory He had from the beginning. That is the portion we studied last week, glorification. This week's portion of the prayer is really dedicated to the disciples' sanctification. The last portion, which we will go over next week, is about us and our unification. However, the portion this week, in which He prays for the disciples, can be applied to us, for we are also disciples with a similar mission.

Jesus specifically said He is not praying for the world at large in this portion of the prayer. He is focusing on the disciples' needs because they belong to God. Because they are God's, they are the target of the enemy. (Ephesians 6:11) They need special prayer. We often think the world is in need of our prayers, and it often is, but the world's one need is simple, to believe in Jesus. (Luke 23:34) Those of us who belong to God are under attack and have needs in several specific areas Jesus will address.

*<sup>10</sup> All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.* The disciples belong to God, but God has given them to Jesus. Still, the Father and Son share everything, especially the worship and adoration of the believers. They glorify the Son. They exalt His name, for He has revealed God to them. (Psalm 50:23) He has shown them the love of God and the personal concern God has for each of them. We'll see next week, the same is true for all of us as well. We give glory to God in the same way Jesus glorifies God, by demonstrating the attributes of God in our own lives. (John 15:8) When people see Jesus in us, they see God. That brings glory to the Father and the Son.

So what are people seeing in our lives? The world demonstrates selfishness. The believer in Jesus should show genuine concern, because people are eternal souls for whom Jesus died. (1John 4:7)

*<sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name--the name you gave me--so that they may be one as we are one.* There is no one that understands this cosmic war over the souls of men better than Jesus. That is why when He found Himself in human form He humbled Himself and became completely obedient to the Father. (Philippians 2:6-8) He knows the potential of the enemy of our souls. He knows the weakness of men. He was about to leave this world victorious, but His followers would remain. His prayer was that the Father would protect them by the power of His name. Now remember, that includes all that the Father is. He is righteous, just, merciful, gracious, all-powerful, loving, kind and much more. Jesus asked that the power and authority of all that the Father is protect us so that we could be one. Protection for the sake of unity was Jesus' first request for us.

He will address this issue of unity more in the last portion of the prayer. But here, thinking of the attack of the enemy on His followers, Jesus prayed the power of the Father would protect them for the sake of unity. When the enemy works His way into

**Commented [notes14]:** 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."  
John 16:28 (NIV)

**Commented [notes15]:** 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.  
Eph 6:11 (NIV)

**Commented [notes16]:** 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.  
Luke 23:34 (NIV)

**Commented [notes17]:** 23 He who sacrifices thank offerings honors me, and he prepares the way so that I may show him the salvation of God."  
Psalms 50:23 (NIV)

**Commented [notes18]:** 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.  
John 15:8 (NIV)

**Commented [notes19]:** Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.  
1 John 4:7 (NIV)

**Commented [notes20]:** 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.  
8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!  
Phil 2:6-8 (NIV)

our midst in the form of pride, or self-righteousness, or legalism, the result is disunity. If Jesus followers ended up fighting among themselves, the result would be a lack of unity. (Proverbs 16:28) That would end in a mixed and weakened message delivered to the world.

**Commented [notes21]:** 28 A perverse man stirs up dissension, and a gossip separates close friends. Prov 16:28 (NIV)

Today too, you can be sure that Jesus is interceding for us to be protected by the power of the name of the Father and Son, that we would be one. (Hebrews 7:25) It is that oneness that declares the message in power. The world can't lay down its differences for unity for more than a moment. I'm so grateful to the Lord for the humility of the pastors of this town that set aside the minor differences to be one in Christ. The congregations are getting it as well and that unity is a powerful testimony. Where there is unity the Lord commands a blessing. (Psalm 133:3)

**Commented [notes22]:** 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Heb 7:25 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> *While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.* Jesus kept them while He was physically with them. Only Judas was lost. Just as those who are chosen are destined because of the choice they will make, so those who are lost are destined because of the choice they will make. (Mark 14:21) The prophets could write of Judas in Psalms and Zechariah because God foresaw the choice he would make. (Psalm 41:9; 69:25; 109:8; Zechariah 11:12-13)

**Commented [notes23]:** 3 It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Psalms 133:3 (NIV)

<sup>13</sup> *"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.* Jesus is praying that the Father protect them that they might have unity, for in unity they will have the full measure of joy. The disciples needed to overhear this prayer. They needed to know that Jesus knew what was coming and chose to go through it. They needed to hear His intercession for them so that they would be on guard against disunity.

**Commented [notes24]:** 21 The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born." Mark 14:21 (NIV)

We have seen Jesus speak about perfect or complete joy two other times during this night. (John 15:11; 16:22) It was a declaration that the kingdom was arriving. This third time in one night emphasized the importance of those being in the world living in the fruit of the Spirit, joy. Jesus wants us to have a full measure of His joy.

**Commented [notes25]:** Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. Psalms 41:9 (NIV)

The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus had more joy than anyone. (Hebrews 1:9) That doesn't mean He just went around smiling, though He probably smiled a lot. It means He had joy in His soul knowing He is loved by the Father, that the Father is pleased with Him, and that the will of His loving Father would prevail. He wants us to have a full measure of His joy. If you have those truths deep in your soul, that the Father loves you, is pleased with you, and will prevail in your life, you'll begin to experience the same kind of joy, Jesus' joy. Jesus is contrasting the life of His followers with the people of the world. They will live in gloom and anxiety while we should be living in joy and peace.

**Commented [notes26]:** 25 May their place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in their tents. Psalms 69:25 (NIV)

**Commented [notes27]:** 8 May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership. Psalms 109:8 (NIV)

Think about this. Jesus prayed this aloud where John could hear Him so that John could record it so that we could read it today. Jesus prayed to the Father that we would be protected by the power of His name so that we could be one. That assurance that Jesus intercedes for us, asking for our protection by the most powerful of names should fill our hearts with joy. We are loved. God will prevail. He will finish the work He began in you! (Philippians 1:6)

**Commented [notes28]:** 12 I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter. Zech 11:12-13 (NIV)

**Commented [notes29]:** 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:11 (NIV)

**Commented [notes30]:** 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. John 16:22 (NIV)

**Commented [notes31]:** You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." [Heb 1:9 (NIV)]

**Commented [notes32]:** 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Phil 1:6 (NIV)

It seems strange that Jesus should keep bringing up joy this last night of His life, but He can see beyond the impending trial to the glorious victory that lay ahead by faith. We should do the same. In this world you will have trouble but Jesus overcame! Do you know what glory awaits you? Look forward with eyes of faith and be joyful!

*14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.* Jesus faithfully passed on the word of God to us. It is contrary to the spirit of this world. It exposes this world for its true motives. It challenges us to give our life back to our Creator. Because the world's goal is selfishness, it hates those who proclaim the word. (John 15:19) If you doubt that because of how easy it is for us in America, consider that every year approximately 175,000 Christians are martyred. (Gordon-Conwell Seminary statistics) Jesus was not of this world. He came from the Father. When we are in Him we are no longer of this world. We become a target of the world's hatred.

**Commented [notes33]:** 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. John 15:19 (NIV)

*15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*

We are in the world but not of the world. We don't need to isolate ourselves in a monastery. It wouldn't help if we did because the world is in our heart just as Egypt was in the heart of those in the Exodus. We need protection not only from disunity but from the evil one's schemes and the spirit of this age. (Ephesians 6:11) That is our second great need. Jesus taught the disciples to pray for deliverance from the evil one. (Matthew 6:13) Jesus wasn't praying that we escape physical harm, but rather that we escape Satan's schemes to destroy our witness. Jesus knows that Satan can bring down any human that doesn't have divine assistance. Satan knows our weaknesses and has had thousands of years of practice on people a lot stronger than you and me. Thank Jesus for His intercession for our protection from Satan's tactics. (Jude 1:24) Amen?

**Commented [notes34]:** 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Eph 6:11 (NIV)

**Commented [notes35]:** 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. ' Matt 6:13 (NIV)

Then Jesus prayed for deliverance from the world in our heart and mind. *17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.* Even if the Father protected us from the pride that causes divisions and from the enemy's attacks, we could still destroy ourselves from within. The areas of our heart and mind that are still dominated by the world can be given free reign and end up ruining our testimony. We need for God to sanctify us by the truth, the word. (1Thessalonians 5:23) This is our third great need.

**Commented [notes36]:** 24 To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy-- Jude 1:24 (NIV)

As we read the word of God, the Holy Spirit applies it to those unsundered areas of our life. When we yield to His correction, that area of our desires or thoughts is sanctified by the word. (Psalm 119:9) That means it is set apart for God's purposes alone. We give up the selfishness that demanded that we be our own lord and go our own way and surrender to the lordship of Christ. (2Corinthians 7:1) We let Him have His way with those thoughts or desires and they are sanctified. The word comes in like pruning shears and cuts away that which is fruitless. (John 15:2)

**Commented [notes37]:** 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess 5:23 (NIV)

**Commented [notes38]:** 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. Psalms 119:9 (NIV)

**Commented [notes39]:** 1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God. 2 Cor 7:1 (NIV)

The reason that it is the word that does the work is that it is the word that reveals truth. The words that came from Jesus have a different spirit than that of the world. They immediately expose the world's sin and sin in our own lives. But it is up to us to yield to its sharp cleansing work. The word says "No!" to some things and "Yes!" to others according to our motivations and God's will for our lives. Our minds are

**Commented [notes40]:** 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:2 (NIV)

renewed by the word, and we take on the mind of Christ. (Romans 12:2) Then the Holy Spirit doesn't have to say, "No!" as often. Are you letting God's word sanctify you? Are you being conformed to His life? Are you experiencing the adventure of being led by the Spirit?

We can come to the word with our guard up, unyielding, and unbending. When the word shines a light on our sin, we can cover up that branch that needs pruning with leaves and go our not so merry way. Or we can yield ourselves to the word and be sanctified by the truth. We can receive its correction and be changed. The choice is ours.

*18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.* Now, once we have been unified and protected and sanctified by the Word, we are ready to be of service. We are ready to die to ourselves and serve. We are ready to be sent out as our Savior was, to glorify the Father and finish the work He assigned to us. Jesus was sent out as a light in the darkness and He calls us to be the same. (Matthew 5:16) He went to the cross to rescue our souls, and now He expects to carry our cross to reach the lost. (Luke 9:23)

There are many implications in this short verse. Jesus was sent a lamb among wolves. He was sent to relay the words of the Father. He was sent to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10) He was sent to bind up the brokenhearted. (Isaiah 61:1) That mission is now ours as we bring His life to a dying world.

*19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.* Jesus set Himself apart from worldliness, refusing to compromise with sin in any way, so that we too might be truly set apart for God's purposes in a needy world. (Exodus 28:41) You see, we need His righteousness to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. As we put on the righteousness of Christ, it is no longer a question of how good or bad we were, but of who our Redeemer is. Jesus lived a pure and holy life to show us how to live, but also to earn the Father's approval, which He graciously passes on to us that we might become vessels of the Holy Spirit.

"Truly sanctified" reminds me that it is not only the righteousness of Christ in which I am clothed, but the righteousness I express as I yield to His life in me. As I take on His mind, my actions conform to His. As I yield to the pruning of His word the old is gone and the new has come. (2Corinthians 5:17) Then the contacts I have as I pass through this life can have the transformational power that His had. We are to walk not in assimilation with this world or the other extreme, isolation, but to be salt and light to world that is at war. (1Peter 2:11) That is only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit that God gives to those who obey Him. (Acts 5:32)

Have you heard the heart of Jesus for you in this prayer? Humble unity, joy of knowing the Father, protection from the evil one, neither isolated or assimilated, but set apart to serve our Savior like Jesus served the Father. Jesus is still praying these things for you and for me. Will we receive the answer? The Father is willing! Are we? (James 1:22-25)

**Commented [notes41]:** 2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.  
Romans 12:2 (NIV)

**Commented [notes42]:** 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.  
Matt 5:16 (NIV)

**Commented [notes43]:** 23 Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.  
Luke 9:23 (NIV)

**Commented [notes44]:** 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."  
Luke 19:10 (NIV)

**Commented [notes45]:** 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,[  
Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)

**Commented [notes46]:** 41 After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, anoint and ordain them. Consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.  
Ex 28:41 (NIV)

**Commented [notes47]:** 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!  
2 Cor 5:17 (NIV)

**Commented [notes48]:** 11 Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.  
1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)

**Commented [notes49]:** 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."  
Acts 5:32 (NIV)

**Commented [notes50]:** 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.  
23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror  
24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.  
25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.  
James 1:22-25 (NIV)

**Page 1: [1] Commented [notes6] Paul Wallace**

15 But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."  
Josh 24:15 (NIV)

**Page 1: [2] Commented [notes7] Paul Wallace**

8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

John 16:8-9 (NIV)

**Page 1: [3] Commented [notes9] Paul Wallace**

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

**Page 1: [4] Commented [notes13] Paul Wallace**

30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

John 16:30 (NIV)