

Household Worship Guide

Aug 14-20

The Mission of God: The Longest Prayer John 17

(listen to the sermon at <http://www.livingproofbc.org/sermons.asp>)

Sermon Review

Introductory Questions:

- Why do you think it is important for us to pray?
- How have you learned to pray?
- Is it okay to pray for yourself?

Jesus Prays for Himself (1-5)

- Jesus says in verse 1, “the hour has come.” In John’s gospel, when Jesus speaks of his hour, to what does he refer?
- Jesus connects his “hour” with God’s glorification of the Son and the Son’s glorification of his Father. How can Jesus look ahead to such an awful event that is to come and see it as full of glory?
- How do you see the difficult things of this world? Are they opportunities to glorify God or do you see them as inconveniences?
- Does Jesus’ prayer here for himself shape your thinking in terms of how you can pray to God even in difficult situations?

Jesus Prays for His Disciples (6-19)

- Think about the things that Jesus prayed for as he prayed for his disciples. 1) eternal security, 2) joy even when the world hates them, and 3) to keep them from evil in this world. What would you think if you heard Jesus praying this for you? Would you be encouraged or discouraged?
- Dean stated that sanctification means to be set apart to a specific purpose; to put to an intended use. He then asked the question, “Why are we sanctified?” Why do you think God has saved you through Christ? What is your purpose in life? Explain your answer.

Jesus Prays for All Believers (20-26)

- What is the difference between unity and uniformity?
- Think of a situation in which diversity among the people of God could proclaim a testimony of unity.
- Based on verse 26, what is the source of the love we have in us?

The Power of This Prayer

- Dean said that this prayer seeks God’s glory, even at the price of great personal suffering. How does this reality make this prayer powerful?

The Price of This Prayer

- Dean said, “This prayer is dependant upon the cross. Apart from the cross, all of these words are just wishful thinking.” What is the difference between praying and praying with a ready heart of sacrifice?

Applications

- What does God want you to change in your thinking, attitude, action because of what he has taught you from John 17 this week?
- What will you teach from this text to someone else this week? Who will you teach it to?

Supplemental Study

Read Philippians 2:5-11

This is a Scripture that was written by Paul in order to help the Philippian Christians have the correct motivation behind their unity. We can all claim unity with others for any varied reasons. I am “one” with other fans of the Boston Red Sox and we are unified against the evil empire of the New York Yankees. Is this truly a strong and steadfast foundation for unity, though? Obviously the answer is, “no.” This may seem like a silly example, but many of us unify around certain things that are not intended to create a bond the way that they do. Some gather around a political ideology or party. Others will claim unity based on racial or ethnic background. The problem with these “unifying forces” is that all are temporal and truly, all are based on self-righteousness. We are really just looking to find others who are just like us, aren’t we?

Some folks in the Philippian church were functioning out of rivalry and conceit. This is not good in a church. Now Paul could have given the command to just stop. He was an Apostle, after all, and had the authority to do so. Instead, he brought his readers to Jesus and allowed them to gaze at his beauty, majesty, humility, and obedience. He did this, and then said, “be just like him.” Let the mind of Christ in you be the source of your unity.

The key to understanding this text is simple. Jesus chose to humble himself and then trusted God to do the rest. Jesus could have claimed all glory, laud, and honor for himself, but this passage tells us that he did something different.

- There are two big steps Jesus takes in humbling himself in verses 6-8. In these verses Jesus starts in one place, and ends in another. What are those steps? (Hint: God, man, cross)
- We are told that we should “have this mind” as well. It seems, then, that Paul is telling us that even if we are in a position where we deserve honor, or could claim a level of superiority over another, that the calling on our lives as followers of Christ would be to willingly humble ourselves in the same way that Jesus did. Think about times when you held on to your place, status, or right because you felt that you deserved to do so. Think about how that situation might have been different if you had exercised the mind of Christ and humbled yourself as did your Savior.
- Ask God to remind you of this text as you go through life so that you can be like Christ in situations to come.

Verse 9 starts with a very important biblical word, “therefore.” Because of what happened before this word, the following action took place. So this is telling us that because Jesus focused on humbling himself and giving himself, God did something to him and for him.

- Describe different Scriptures that you know in which you see God exalting Christ.
- What does it mean that Jesus has received the name that is above every name?
- Verse 10 gives us another important biblical phrase, “so that.” This speaks of purpose. What happened prior to this phrase occurred in order to bring about the result described after this phrase. Based on this, why did God exalt Jesus?
- We see Jesus willingly humbling himself followed by God exalting him and humbling all mankind before Jesus. The last phrase in verse 11 reads, “to the glory of God the Father.” How does all of this glorify God? Can you see any parallels with John 17?

Household Worship Through Song

Be Glorified
Chris Tomlin

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life the air I breathe
Be glorified in me

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life the air I breathe
Be glorified in me

You set my feet to dancing
You set my heart on fire
In the presence of a thousand kings
you are my one desire

I stand before you now
With trembling hands lifted high
Be glorified

Your love has captured me
Your grace has set me free
Your life the air I breathe
Be glorified in me

Glory of the Ages
Words by Steve and Vicki Cook

Jesus how we love You
How we long to sing Your praise
To join the mighty chorus
That is worshiping Your name
For You are surrounded
By an endless sea of joy
Multitudes rejoicing
And declaring with one voice

You're the glory of the ages
You're eternity's delight
You're the hope of all creation
And the fountain of all life
You're the glory of the ages
And the Lord of history
Your great throne will stand forever
Jesus You will always be
The glory of the ages

Jesus how we love You
For You proved Your love for us

When You became the Lamb of God
By dying on the Cross
Now You are exalted
As our great Redeemer King
Throughout time our praise will be
Forever echoing

Weekly Memory Verse

John 17:3

(3) And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Households Praying Around The World

<http://www.operationworld.org/>

Operation World helps us to regularly pray for nations all over the world. This week, Operation World highlights the nations of **Lybia**, **Macedonia**, and **Madagascar**. Visit the Operation World website and read the country profiles for these nations. Also, follow the prayer guides that they include in each country profile.

<http://www.joshuaproject.net>

Joshua Project is a research initiative seeking to highlight the ethnic people groups with the least followers of Jesus Christ. Their website is full of great resources to help guide your personal and family prayer life for the nations. Follow the “Unreached of the Day” and pray together for each of these Unreached People Groups.

<http://www.imb.org/main/pray/default.asp>

The website for the International Mission Board contains many resources that will equip you and your household to strategically engage the nations in prayer. KOM (Kids on Mission) will allow you to view and pray for requests from the mission field written by children serving with their families.

<http://tinyurl.com/6yy3k46>

Join the Living Proof page on facebook and follow the “*Pray Around the World Today*” updates we have there throughout the week.