



A God Who Prays

Wednesday, March 13 at 11 & 7

Second Wednesday of Lent – 2019

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today we focus on Jesus being *a God who prays!* In the OT the priests transferred their sins to animals, *which were then sacrificed*; then the priests offered sacrifices and prayed to God on behalf of the people. Now we focus on Jesus, *who is the Ultimate High Priest*; He **had** no sin, **sacrificed** Himself for our sins, and **prays** for us! Paul wrote that Jesus **“is at the right hand of God... interceding for us”** (Rom. 8:34 ESV). Our prayers are always lacking, *but Jesus’ prayers are perfect!* Today we focus on Jesus’ prayer, as recorded in **John chapter 17**.

1. **Jesus Prays Concerning Himself:** Just before Jesus prayed, He said, **“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world”** (Jn. 16:33 ESV).
 - a. **Eternal life:** ¹ [Then Jesus] **lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son [through His death] that the Son may glorify you [through His perfect obedience to Your will], [then Jesus continued about Himself] ² ...you have given him authority over all flesh [all people], to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** // So the Father works *by the Spirit through the Word to draw* (John 6:44) *people to Jesus, to enable* (John 6:65) *them to come to Jesus* so that He can give them the gift of eternal life! And what is eternal life? *To know the Father and His Son!*

- b. Glorify: ⁴ **I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.** ⁵ **And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.** // Jesus glorified the Father through His perfect obedience – *even to death on a cross*; then He asked the Father to glorify Him *when He ascends into heaven!*

2. **Jesus Prays for His Disciples:**

- a. They believe: ⁶ **“I have manifested [revealed] your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word [“not to lose it from their hearts, nor to violate it in their lives, not to let anyone else tamper with it” (Lenski, 1129-1130)].** ⁷ **Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.** ⁸ **For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.** // Jesus said that certain people belonged to the Father; *then the Father gave such people to Him*. Those are the people whom the Father *predestined to be His own* before the creation of the world (Eph. 1:3-6); then, *in time*, they were made just in God’s sight through Jesus! Jesus also acknowledged that His disciples had come to believe the important relationship between God and Jesus, *Father and Son!*
- b. Keep them: ⁹ **I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world [for unbelievers] but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.** ¹⁰ **All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them [because they believe in us].** ¹¹ **And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming**

to you [very soon, as I will die in less than 24 hours].

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction [Judas Iscariot], that the Scripture might be fulfilled. // Since Jesus would soon depart from this world, He asked the Father to keep His disciples in the faith. In response, on Pentecost, the Spirit was poured out from the Father through the Son to keep them!

- c. Give them Joy: ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves [through knowing us and having forgiveness]. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. // The disciples were IN the world, but not OF the world!
- d. Make them holy: ¹⁷ Sanctify them [so make them holy] in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world [to speak and live the truth], so I have sent them into the world [to speak and live the truth]. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. // Jesus offered Himself to take away the sins of the world!

3. Jesus Prays for All Future Believers:

- a. For their unity: ²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in

me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. // As it is important for people to know the connection between the Father and Jesus, *so also between Jesus and us*. By God's grace we believe, *and may others see Jesus in us!*

- b. For being together forever: ²⁴ **Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.** // Knowing Jesus is *for now*, and *forever!*
- c. For love: ²⁵ **O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.** // Love passes from > the Father, to > the Son, to >believers. Jesus said, **"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another"** (Jn. 13:35 ESV).

Let Us Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, *our God in human flesh*, TY for praying for us long ago and today; please keep us united with You and loving others, *until we are finally together forever!*

Some of the content of this sermon is from the series, Behold the Man (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2018).

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