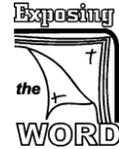




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# The Gospel of **Verifying** John the MESSIAH

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## 41- The Pray of Our High Priest *John 17:1-26*

The seventieth chapter of John has given rise to commentary unlike almost any other in the Word of God. I have one of these that is comprised of twenty two sermons and 223 pages of material. I say this to apologize for my light treatment of this chapter. One sermon for such a magnificent subject and one that utterly rises to the peak spiritually should have more. With the apology I want you to know this is not meant to diminish the subject nor the Master but it is all the time I can justify at this present time.

This is what is often referred to as the high priestly prayer of Jesus. Adam Clarke said, "Our Lord, ...was now going to act as high priest for the whole human race..."

*Barnes Notes* says concerning this prayer:

It was offered on the most tender and solemn occasion that has ever occurred in our world, and it is perhaps the most sublime composition to be found anywhere. Jesus was about to die. Having expressed his love to his disciples, and made known to them his last desires, he now commends them to the protection and blessing of the God of grace. This prayer is moreover a specimen of the manner of his intercession, and evinces the interest which he felt in behalf of all who should become his followers in all ages of the world.

Jesus standing in the preverbal shadow of the cross looming in the next few hours. He has prepared His disciples as best they could be prepared and now is going to pray for them and leave them in the hands of the Father and Holy Spirit.

I want us to notice three divisions of this text. I- Prayer for Himself *John 17:1-5*, II- Prayer for the Disciples *John 17:6-19*, III- Prayer for Me and You *John 17:20-26*.

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### I- Prayer for Himself *John 17:1-5*,

In this portion of the prayer we see the intimate relationship between Jesus and God the Father. These words refers to word that Jesus had just addressed the disciples with.

*Joh 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven...* Notice the detail that John gives us of the direction of the face and eyes of Jesus.

Jesus is going to speak to the Father about assuming His former glory. This was not a prideful thing but only a restoration of the position that He had held from eternity past.

Paul stated in *Philippians 2:6-9* *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*

*Philippians 2:7 HCSB ...He emptied Himself by assuming the form of a slave, taking on the likeness of men...*

Jesus prayed in the moments of quietness with His disciples. *John 17:1b ...Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee*



*the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*

Jesus had been faithful to accomplish all that had been laid out for Him. He had brought glory to the Father by obedience. He said He had finished the work when the cross still lay ahead of Him. He could say this now because He knew He would carry through with all. Jesus' death would be the thing that brought the most honor and glory to Him and the Father.

When someone comes to faith in Christ it is because the Father has caused Him to be acknowledged and accepted as Messiah by the Holy Spirit working in their heart. Even this prayer of restoration of former glory is with a heart for others in mind that would be saved by His death.

## II- Prayer for the Disciples *John 17:6-19*

Next we see Jesus praying for the disciples who had walked with Him on His earthly pilgrimage.

*Joh 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*

These men were from the chosen people of Israel. While Israel had rejected their Messiah these men had not.

*Joh 17:7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. 8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

Jesus tells us here that the things these men have seen and heard has sprang forth in their hearts. He had been verified to them by the Father.

*Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. 10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. 11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.*

Jesus prayed that there would be unity in the brethren. We see this in many other places in the Scriptures. One such is **HCSB Psalms 133:1-3** *How good and pleasant it is when brothers can live together! 2 It is like fine oil on the head, running down on the beard, running down Aaron's beard, on his robes. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion...* This means it was a sweet fragrance to God.

Jesus did not just pray that for these but also would for the church that would come after these down through the ages. Let us jump ahead and tie that together with His disciples' prayer. *Joh 17:21-23 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: 23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

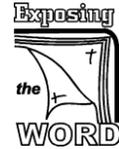
The purpose of this unity was for the gospel's sake, that men would accept Christ.



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***Joh 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. 18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.***

There are a number of important truths in these verse but let me focus on a couple that I have underlined. Jesus prays that they would not be separated from the world physically, after all how can you minister if you are not in contact with men, but that they would be protected from evil. From this it is plain that we do not make our churches and our homes places we run into and out of hurriedly and not have contact with the world. This moves us to the second thing I have underlined. He sent us into the world. Remember the great commission is one of going not waiting for them to come. ***Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.***

Jesus disciples that He was praying for would be scattered and cast around the known world with the gospel.

### III- Prayer for Me and You

#### *John 17:20-26*

I am often told by others that they are praying for me. I appreciate every one of these but I must confess something. The one who prayed for me that I treasure most is Jesus. He prayed for me before I was born.

***Joh 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word.*** He looked down through time and prayed for me. The song writer said it well with the words, "When He was on the cross I was on His mind."

We discussed verse 21-23 previously.

***John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.***

Jesus prayed that we would be with Him where He is. See God's purpose in all of the things that Jesus suffered was that the relationship with us would be restored. It will have the ultimate restoration when we step foot on the shores of Heaven where Jesus is.

***John 17:25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.***

If we miss all other things in this section let us come away with a strong assurance of the love of God. When we are certain of someone's love it sets us free to love them and to serve in a special way. Jesus prayed that we would be united and the greatest that that unites is knowing the love of God.