

- I. My Notes ... WWC message 6/14 (Father's Day weekend)
- II. Series: That You Might Believe
  - Title: The Lord's Prayer
  - Text: John 17:1-26
  - Quote: Prayer enters the pool of God's love and widens outward. Philip Yancey (Author)
- III. Father's Day
  - Being a "Dad" is an incredible privilege and yet it is a calling filled with confusion, frustration, and even pain. I'm not trying to paint a negative picture of fatherhood. It is an honor to nurture, to teach, and to walk with our kids. **Psalm 127:3** says, *"Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him."* **(NLT)**. Kids are a blessing from God, and they need to be treated as such. Too often the pressures of life can get in the way of what is important. Relationships are what lasts, not the success or prestige the world deems important. Being Dad is facing the challenge of negotiating this path of provision and protection. Doing it with prayer, with understanding, and with love is the only path to helping children find the heritage they deserve – one based on faith in Jesus Christ.
  - Fathers – Dads, thank you for the struggles and sacrifices you have endured so that those that follow may know the truth of God's mercy and grace.
- IV. Introduction

- Have you ever been to an all-night prayer meeting? They used to be commonplace when I was growing up. Four or five nights a year would be set aside to come together and pray through the entire evening. It's difficult for many to pray for more than a few minutes. Praying for an entire evening is a commitment. Prayer is about drawing close to the Lord God ... about sharing our lives with Him and listening to what He has to say. We read in **James**, *"Come near to God, and God will come near to you. You sinners, clean sin out of your lives. You who are trying to follow God and the world at the same time, make your thinking pure."* (4:8 NCV). Our coming near to Him starts with prayer. God is approachable, He is open and willing to have a conversation with each of us. The remainder of what James says begins in prayer too – asking for forgiveness, seeking a right relationship with the Lord. It comes in our moments of prayer.
- Over the last several weeks, we have looked at the events John has recorded in his Gospel surrounding the Last Supper and the instructions Jesus has given His Disciples. This is really the final teaching He will leave them with. The Example – washing their feet (13:1-30) and The Explanation (chapters 14-16) have been to prepare them for what was about to happen. The last thing Jesus said before this time in prayer was a strong encouragement ... *"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world."* (16:33 NLT). I imagine that after all this there were a few

moments of silent reflection and wondering what would happen next.

- Jesus gave them another example – this time it was letting them in on His conversation with the Father. Many refer to this as “The Lord’s Prayer” (me included), the example that Jesus gave the Disciples when they asked Him to teach them to pray commonly has this name. But here we are privileged to have a record of how Jesus prayed.

#### V. The Prayer – Part 1

- **John 17:1-5 CSB**

*17 Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you gave him authority over all people, so that he may give eternal life to everyone you have given him. 3 This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent—Jesus Christ. 4 I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5 Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.*

- There are 2 common messages throughout Jesus’ teachings ... One has to do with His “hour” coming. It isn’t a matter of time; it’s about His mission – His purpose. Jesus came to die so that we might live. This was the fulfillment of God’s plan (from the beginning). In one of Daniel’s visions, he addresses this point.
- **Daniel 7:13-14 NLT**

*13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.*

- This vision and prophecy pointed to Jesus. Jesus' path was established from the beginning.
- The second message in the start of this prayer focuses on His "glory" ... Now, some might see this as selfish, it is not. The glory that Jesus spoke of was the fulfillment of God's plan for man's redemption. This glory involved the (mock) trial, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus prayed for the completion of God's plan and the continued revelation of His identity to His followers. Jesus wasn't focused on the suffering that He would endure. His focus, His reason (if you will allow), was the completion of God's plan.
- It might be important to understand what God's glory is. God's glory isn't something He gets from somewhere—it's something He is. His glory flows from His very nature: His holiness, power, love, justice, and beauty all radiate what we call "glory." I would say it this way ... God's glory is the visible manifestation of His invisible attributes. For example, Psalm 19:1 reminds us, "The heavens declare the glory of God ..." meaning creation itself reflects His majesty. And in Exodus 33, when Moses asks to

see God's glory, God responds by revealing His goodness and proclaiming His name—His character.

- Jesus was praying this because His mission was complete, and He was preparing to return to the Father.

## VI. The Prayer – Part 2

- **John 17:6-19 CSB**

*6 “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 because I have given them the words you gave me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from you. They have believed that you sent me.*

*9 “I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they are yours. 10 Everything I have is yours, and everything you have is mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I was protecting them by your name that you have given me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled. 13 Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them. 14 I have given them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not*

*of the world. 15 I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

- The most important relationship you will ever have is a relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord. Every other relationship takes second place behind this bond, this connection. A.W. Tozer (Pastor, Author) said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” He taught that our relationship with the Lord shaped everything else about us – our perspective, our actions, our decisions, and every other relationship.
- In this portion of this prayer, Jesus was praying for those who were in His care and guidance while He was on Earth. Jesus was asking God (the Father) to protect them and sanctify them. Being sanctified is being set apart as part of God’s family. It is both an event (being declared holy and belonging to God. See 1 Corinthians 6:11) and a process. Sanctification is an ongoing process of maturing in God’s truth. It is seen as we become those reflections of Jesus to the world around us (see 2 Thessalonians 2:13).
- We are sanctified by God and His work in us through the Holy Spirit. It is our responsibility to continue to walk in obedience, to grow in grace and knowledge, through learning and living God’s

truths throughout our lives. Simply said, it is a choice to respond to God's guidance in our lives ... no matter what.

- Jesus prayed for protection because He understood what was coming. He does the same for us today. *"Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf."* (Hebrews 7:25 NLT).

## VII. The Prayer – Part 3

- **John 17:20-26 CSB**

*20 "I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. 21 May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. 22 I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me. 24 "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world's foundation. 25 Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have known you, and they have known that you sent me. 26 I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them."*

- Unity is an essential attribute of the church that Jesus came to establish. We find so many reasons to divide, to emphasize differences. This isn't what Jesus was leading us to.
- Please don't misunderstand ... unity in Christ isn't uniformity. God values the individual. Our preferences don't bother Him. I like spicy food, many don't ... that has to do with preference not unity, people need to eat. Unity in the church is not compromise (concession), it is not chasing every new teaching or idea. Unity comes with maturity, and it glorifies God by reflecting His love and peace in all things.
- "Jesus not only prayed for unity, but He gave the reasons that Christian unity is important: He asked that all believers may be in the Father and the Son, "so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21). And then Jesus prayed for "complete unity" so that "the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" (verse 23). When Christians are united in Christ, the world sees two things clearly: Jesus was sent by the Father, and Jesus loves His church." ([www.gotquestions.org](http://www.gotquestions.org))
- Unity in Christ reflects the message of the Gospel, the message of God's love and grace, to the world around us. It is a powerful witness of who God is. We can be ourselves and stand together in the truth of God's compassion for all. Look at the Disciples – they were as different and varied as any group. Yet, they were the foundation of the Church today. It is on their faithful efforts and teachings that we stand today – telling others of God's love, of His desire for a relationship with Him.



- Unity is the result of the indwelling Holy Spirit in our lives. Through the fruit and gifts of the Spirit we are able to encourage and strengthen one another, resulting in a deeper connection. That's unity.
- Jesus' prayer reveals His heart for His followers—not just those present at the time, but all who would come to faith through the message of the Gospel. His prayer is a call to unity, love, and a deeper relationship with God.

#### VIII. Saying Amen

- Today, we are called to live out our bond with Jesus as Lord of our lives. There are many places we can touch with the message of God's grace and love. I am going to say it again ... some may get tired of hearing this, but it begins with Love ... specifically God's love. As believers learn to put aside personal agendas (that's maturity) and seek to serve one another, the church becomes a powerful testimony of the goodness and grace of the Lord God. This love can be seen in honest and respectful conversations, in serving the community (meeting real needs in real ways), and helping others find what is best in their circumstances. Listening to others, reaching across our differences, and remaining faithful to our commitment to the principles Jesus taught is a strong demonstration of God's grace.
- Believers must learn to be the shining example of mercy and grace. In that, God gets the honor and glory He deserves. And that is what Jesus was praying.

- Let's Pray
- Grace First, Grace Always