

## **Learning from Jesus' Last Message #17** **"Jesus' Prayer I: Living Out Your Calling"**

Message Notes, May 22, 2022

### **John 17:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. <sup>2</sup> For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. <sup>4</sup> I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.

### ◆ **Jesus' Prayer**

- Jesus prayed often, but the actual content of his prayers is not known. Today's text is a chapter-long account of what Jesus prayed about just before he left this earth.
- The context are ① for himself (1-5), ② for his disciples (6-19), and ③ for the disciples of the second generation (20-26).
- Today we will learn about his prayer for himself, which is actually focused on the accomplishment of His mission of saving mankind, the will of God the Father.

### ◆ **Learning from Jesus' Prayer**

#### **1. Intimacy**

- a. Looking to the heavens and feeling that the Father is present with Him
    - The disciples directly witnessed Jesus speaking with God the Father. This trust relationship is the foundation of prayer.
    - Looking up to the heavens was a form prevalent in the culture of that time. It is also a universal human attitude toward God. Each one of us must come before the Lord in a way that is natural and comfortable.
  - b. The Importance of Time (Timing)
    - Moved from "my time has not yet come," to "the time has finally come."
    - Prepares the stage for future activity (Ephesians 2:10)
  - c. Glorification
    - The overwhelming presence of God
    - The cross of the Gospel of John (glorious triumph); Moses' face shone as he spoke face-to-face with God.
- If we, too, live out our mission according to God's will, we can live a life of amazing blessings to the glory of God!

#### **2. Viewing Things from the Same Direction as the Will of God the Father**

- a. He has been and will continue to carry out God's mission→<sup>4</sup>"I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do."
  - Jesus lives not only in physical proximity to the Father, but also in complete conformity to His will
  - In this prayer, Jesus is not pleading with the Father for anything, but is asking to be obedient to the will of the Father who sent Him, with which He agrees.
- b. Difference between Jesus' prayer and our prayers
  - Despite the reality that God's will is always the best, at times we do not understand it or like it, so we feel stress about obeying Him (tensions arise).
  - Our prayers are characterized by contention with God or outright defiance of His commands, as in the cases of Jacob and the prophet Johan that we studied last week. The losses of energy and time that result are enormous.

- How can we live a fulfilling life without wasting the time we have been given?

### 3. Experiencing God

<sup>3</sup>“And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.”

- “Eternal life” begins not after going to heaven. It has already begun here on earth.
- To know God the Father and Jesus. **Know** *gnosis* means to know deeply through experience. Here the continuative form is used: to continue to experience, to deepen daily one’s personal and spiritual trust relationship with God.
- In other words, eternal life is the grace of forgiveness offered by Jesus; the love of God the Father; and intimate communion with the indwelling Holy Spirit, who engraves that love deeply in our hearts. This is the life given to the Christian, called eternal, which is guaranteed forever, even beyond death, filled with power and joy.
- Practical problem: I know in my head that God’s will is best, and I understand that behind every challenge His love is revealed. But in our lived reality, it is hard for our hearts and bodies to keep up with that reality.

- Change your perspective: If you’re stressed about obeying, “make it a matter of sincere joy.”

#### James 1:2-4

<sup>2</sup>Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. <sup>3</sup>For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. <sup>4</sup>So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

- God says to be overjoyed, recognizing that He has given me the perfect load to grow in faith right now. The literal translation of “rejoice” is “consider it a joy,” and the Message Translation says, “consider it a pure gift.”
- Through the temptation, God will cause me to grow and to develop patience. However, you may not immediately understand that following God’s will is what is best for you, so keep on keeping on!

- **Pray honestly while struggling:** accept that stress is part of the pain and joy that leads to growth.

#### James 1:5-8

<sup>5</sup>If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. <sup>6</sup>But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup>Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>8</sup>Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.

- In the midst of our stress, honest prayer to God becomes a necessity for us. Even Jesus later prayed vulnerably in the Garden of Gethsemane, “If it is possible, please allow this cup to pass from me.” It is critically important that we be honest and authentic in our prayers.
- The key to prayer is to trust in God. Take the first step by believing and trusting Him.

#### Conclusion:

1. Do I believe that God’s will is what is best for me, from my heart as well as my head?
2. Can you acknowledge that your current problems are a gift from God and rejoice?
3. About what situation is it that God is teaching you patience through this gift?
4. What specifically is God directing you to do to be obedient to His will?