

John 17:1-26 – The High Priestly Prayer

Jesus prayed for himself. Then Jesus prayed for his disciples. Finally, Jesus prayed for the church. John lets us be a fly on the wall as Jesus prayed to the Father.

Read John 17:1-5.

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven to pray. Jesus addressed God the Father as “Father”. What was Jesus’ hour which had now come? Given that his hour has come, what is Jesus’ request? (17:1)

In verse 2, what had the Father given to Jesus? Who are the recipients of eternal life? (17:2)

How did Jesus define eternal life? (17:3)

From verse 4, how had Jesus glorified the Father while he was on the earth?

What is Jesus’ final request for himself? (17:5)

Read John 17:6-19.

What did Jesus say about the disciples in verses 6 through 8?

In verse 9, who are the ones God gave to Jesus?

In verse 10, how was Jesus glorified?

Jesus was leaving the world and returning to the Father, but the disciples were left to spread the good news of Jesus. In verse 11, what did Jesus ask God to do for the disciples?

In verse 12, what did Jesus say about his care of his disciples? Who is the son of perdition (destruction)?

In verse 13, how was Jesus' joy fulfilled in the disciples?

In verses 14-16, describe the relationship of the disciples and the world. What did Jesus not pray for? What did Jesus pray for concerning the disciples who would remain in the world?

In verse 17, Jesus asked the Father to sanctify the disciples. How will they be sanctified? (17:17, 19)

The Father sent the Son into the world. What mission did Jesus give to his disciples? (17:18)

Read John 17:20-26.

Jesus prayed for those in the future who would believe in him through the disciples' spreading of the word. Jesus prayed for the church. What did Jesus ask the Father to do for the church? What kind of unity is meant here? What is the effect of the unity? (17:20-23)

In verse 24, what did Jesus ask the Father to do for those whom the Father gave to the Son?

Does the world know God? What did the disciples know? (17:25)

Jesus made know the Father's name to them and he would make it known in the future. What would be the result of Jesus making the Father known? (17:26)