

LESSON 28: JOHN 17:6-26
APRIL 17, 2019

OVERVIEW

- . Prayer for the sanctification of the eleven disciples – John 17:6-19
- . Prayer for the salvation for future believers – John 17:20-26

PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE ELEVEN DISCIPLES – JOHN 17:6-19

- . In these verses Jesus is praying specifically for the eleven remaining disciples
 - . He is setting them apart by identifying key common characteristics they have come to possess
 - . They have obeyed your Word
 - . Now they know
 - . They accepted them (my words)
 - . They knew, they believed
 - . The eleven have already surrendered their lives over to Christ
 - . Because of this Christ now prays for their sanctification – to be set apart
- . Christ speaks of the disciples value to Him – John 17:6-10
 - . The disciples were the Father's love gift to His Son – John 17:6
 - . God placed these men in Jesus' life and they responded to His call
 - . They surrendered themselves to Christ and opened their minds to His teachings – John 17:7-8
 - . They chose to hear the Words of God and believe them
 - . They believed that Jesus was everything He claimed to be
 - . They believed that Jesus was divine and came from God
 - . These men were precious as the fruit of Jesus' labor – John 17:9-10
 - . Jesus was ultimately glorified in them
 - . They represented the fruit of the Lord's own labor
 - . They were the fulfillment of why He came
 - . It is through their testimony and ministry that we have come to know Him
- . The Lord's desires and prayers for the eleven – John 17:11-19
 - . Preface to the first petition – John 17:11
 - . Prior to articulating his specific requests he mentions some of the reasons why His heart is burdened for them
 - . "I will remain in the world no longer"
 - . Up until now He has been their constant companion and protector and comforter
 - . He took complete responsibility for their safety

- . "But they are still in the world"
 - . He knows He is soon to be in a better place
 - . He knows for the time being they will need to be left behind – in a place where they will be persecuted
 - . He knows their needs to be a time when they will be physically separated and that they won't completely understand
- . "And I am coming to you"
 - . He is going to be back in His Father's physical presence while they will feel somewhat alone and isolated
- . The first petition – John 17:11
 - . Note He begins by addressing His Father as Holy Father, not Heavenly, Almighty or Loving Father
 - . The heart of this first petition is Holiness
 - . "Protect them by the power of your name – the name you gave me"
 - . "God's" name is meant to embody all that is revealed to us about Him in scripture – that He is Holy
 - . It is only through the disciples desire to be Holy that they will be separated and protected from the powers of evil
 - . Christ is praying that the disciples will keep these truths first and foremost in their minds and choose to surrender themselves to it
 - . "That they may be one as we are one"
 - . This oneness is the theme of this entire chapter
 - . He is praying that they will feel the oneness with each other
 - . He is praying that they will feel the oneness with the Father
 - . Christ's physical ascension into heaven reminds us that there is a physical component to the heavenly realm that we will recognize
 - . Christ now sits at the right hand of the Father as the Son of Man, a physical characteristic similar to us that should help us feel a closer connection to God
- . The second petition – "that they have the full measure of my joy within them" – John 17:13
 - . We should not confuse joy with pleasure or happiness, although those things can bring us joy
 - . Here the joy of Jesus is the joy that arises out of a finished work
 - . The joy in the heart of Jesus is the joy of victory over sin
 - . It is the joy of bringing His church into existence
 - . It is the joy of harvest
- . Prayer to be kept from the evil in the world – John 17:14-16
 - . The only thing that can truly harm and destroy the oneness with God is sin
 - . The theme of these verses is the theme of personal holiness
 - . This will give them complete protection from the evil one

- . What separates the believer from the world is the believer's holiness
- . As the disciples grow in their faith, aided by the Holy Spirit, their life will become increasingly more conformed to God's standards of holiness
- . Personal holiness is God's ultimate aim for every person that He draws to Christ
- . To be holy is to enjoy oneness with God
- . "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one"
 - . It is very clear that Christ is not asking for their protection by removing them from the world
 - . The real joy He will feel is watching them defeat evil by doing the things He told them to do and by choosing to be One with His Father
- . The evil one behind the evil in this world – John 17:15
 - . It is hard for us to sometime recognize and validate those things we cannot see
 - . Jesus has been clear, throughout his ministry, that there is an organized effort being led by Satan against God
- . The Lord does not pray for the disciples to be taken out of the sphere of temptation, but that they may be kept from yielding to it
- . Prayer for sanctification for their mission – John 17:17-19
 - . Sanctification means to be set apart from sin and set apart for God
 - . A sanctified person is someone set apart for a separate use
 - . Only a person sanctified by the Holy Spirit's power has the power to do this work
 - . Sanctified by the truth – John 17:17
 - . Almost everything we know about God, Christ and the Holy Spirit is obtained through the Bible
 - . Sanctification of Jesus for their sakes – John 17:19
 - . Jesus sanctified Himself in the sense that He set Himself apart from many of His rights as a human being

PRAYER FOR THE SALVATION OF FUTURE BELIEVERS – JOHN 17:20-26

- . Prayer for Oneness – John 17:20-23
 - . Without the belief in a higher moral authority, the human spirit can only go so far in its attempt to achieve oneness with fellow humans
 - . Even amongst believers in God, different theologies will ultimately come between people and prevent complete unity
 - . Believers who fully embrace Christ's identity, that He speaks of in these verses, have a chance to achieve the same Oneness that Christ is praying for in these verses

- . People from completely different cultures and socio-economic backgrounds can come together and have an immediate, deep bond, that is possible through the Holy Spirit
 - . Two people from opposite ends of the globe can share an immediate Oneness that two neighbors may never experience despite a lifetime Together
- . Prayer that His own shall share His glory – John 17:24, 26
 - . Christ understands the pure joy that He feels in His oneness with God
 - . His love for all believers is so deep and real that He wants nothing more than for all believers to feel this same Oneness
 - . This is the glory that Christ is speaking of
 - . Because Christ choose to be completely in His Fathers will, His glory became His Fathers glory
 - . Christ, through His ever action, revealed the full glory of the Father
 - . In the same way, if we choose to be obedient to Christ and live by faith, our holiness will reveal the full glory of Christ
 - . His glory will be our glory, just as Christ's glory was God's glory
 - . This absolute Oneness will bring God great joy, which in turn will give us great joy
- . Prayer that His own shall share His Father's love for Him – John 17:25-26
 - . His final prayer is that all believers will receive the full essence of God's love – the same fullness of love that Christ has received from God
 - . In these verses He also asks God that all those who choose to believe and choose to live by faith, will be with Him, wherever He goes
 - . We see here Christ's deep love for humanity and understanding of what it means to be human and interest in wanting to be with believers for all times
 - . This should give all believers great hope and joy, regardless of our human predicament
 - . What a great reminder for all of us as we head in to this Easter week

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2019 – JOHN 18:1-27