

JOHN

Chapter 17

Note from Kathy

Deep intimate relationships take time and effort. This chapter very clearly displays the love our Savior has for his followers. There are few activities that are as intimate as praying together. In this chapter, we read Jesus' prayer for his disciples and his prayer for all believers. Try personalizing verses 6-9 by inserting your name.

John 16:31-33

"Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. ³²A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. ³³I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Glorify

The word "glorify" is the Greek word "doxazo." It means to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged.



Observation

1. Spend a few minutes reading this chapter at least twice before beginning your study guide. Take a moment to pray, and ask the Lord to speak to your heart as you study his word.
2. Read John 16:31-33. For Jesus and for all those who follow him there will be constant tension with the unbelieving world. Is Jesus really alone? Who will be with him?
3. John 17 begins with Jesus final recorded prayer. His ministry has been filled with frequent times of prayer. This prayer reveals the truly close union of Father and Son. Notice the timing mentioned in verse 1. So often before we have seen that "it was not his time" and "the hour is coming." Now, what do we see concerning God's timing?
4. Read the definition for the word glorify written in the sidebar. What is Jesus asking the Father to do in verse 1?

5. In John 17:1-26 Jesus states in his prayer that he was given authority over all the people of the earth. What was the purpose or reason he was given this authority? What had he come to do?
6. According to John 17:4 by what action had Jesus brought God glory?
7. Next Jesus prays for his disciples. What does he mention concerning these faithful followers in John 17:6-8?
8. This prayer marks the end of Jesus' earthly ministry and the beginning of Jesus' intercessory ministry. Read verses 9-11. Who does Jesus specifically include in this prayer.
9. The first request Jesus makes for the disciples, who will be left in the world after he is gone, is that the Father would protect them by the power of his name. What is the power in a name? What does His name reveal?
10. Read Psalm 41:9 and 109:8 to go along with John 17:12. Specifically, to whom are these verses referring?
11. In verses 13-19 Jesus asked the Father to sanctify them by the truth of His word. See the definition in the sidebar. What is Jesus asking the Father to do? Where will these disciples be going that will require this kind of protection? Read Matthew 10:16 to go along with Jesus' prayer for sanctification.
12. The last section of this prayer is very inclusive. Who is Jesus now adding to his prayer?

He has set the example that we are to follow, and what is the result mentioned in verse 23?
13. Verses 24-26 are especially amazing—in light of the fact that Jesus knows these are his final moments with his disciples. Very soon soldiers will come and take him by force. Right now though, his mind and heart are fixed on praying for those he loves. It has been said that deep, loving relationships take time. What is Jesus' final prayer and desire for them in verse 26?

Name

The Greek word for “name” is Onoma, when used of the Name of God as expressing His attributes, His character, His authority, His power, His excellence, etc.

Psalm 41:9

“Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me.”

Psalm 109:8

“May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.”

Sanctify

Sanctify is the Greek word “hagiazō,” meaning to set apart – to separate from profane things and dedicate to God.

Matthew 10:16

“I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.”

Application

1. Jesus knew the hour of separation had come. Very soon he would be taken from his disciples by Roman soldiers. And, yet, he is not thinking about that. He is praying for others. Think about the last time you quieted your heart in a real time of prayer. What was the main theme of your prayer? Be honest; this is between you and God.
2. By now, the disciples had sat at Jesus' feet for over 3 years. They have watched him as he dealt with individuals. They had listened as he taught the crowds. They had observed how he dealt with those who were jealous of him and had no desire for truth. And now they are listening to his prayer for them and for their future ministry apart from him. How do you think they felt hearing this prayer?

Is this how others feel when they hear you pray for them?

3. Are you helping those around you in their walk of faith? What are you doing to pour truth into them?
4. If you knew you would not be here tomorrow. Who would you pray for right now?

What would you pray?

We have no promise of tomorrow. Why not pray with and for your loved ones tonight?

5. Jesus asked the Father to protect his disciples from the evil one. But the words of verse 15 can also be translated "from evil." Read Proverbs 3:21-26. Who needs your prayers today to keep them from the snares of the evil one?
6. Jesus longs for all believers to enjoy the same full and rich relationship with the Father as he does. Relationships take time. Would you say you are enjoying a close and intimate relationship with your Heavenly Father?

If not, is there something you could do to draw closer to your heavenly Father?

Proverbs 3:21-26

"My child, don't lose sight of common sense and discernment. Hang on to them, ²²for they will refresh your soul. They are like jewels on a necklace. ²³They keep you safe on your way, and your feet will not stumble. ²⁴You can go to bed without fear; you will lie down and sleep soundly. ²⁵You need not be afraid of sudden disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, ²⁶for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap."

1 John 1:5-7

“Now the message that we have heard from his Son and announce is this: God is light, and there is no darkness at all in him. ⁶If then, we say that we have fellowship with him, yet at the same time live in the darkness, we are lying both in our words and in our actions. ⁷But if we live in the light – just as he is in the light – then we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin.”

Think about the other close relationships in your life. How are you growing them?

- 7. In verse 23 Jesus prayed for our complete unity with the Father and among believers. This is one of the best ways to show the world God’s amazing love. The world is watching to see if our walk lines up with our talk. Are you seeking unity and fellowship in your relationships? According to 1 John 1:5-7 where must we choose to abide?

How are you going to do this?

- 8. At the very end of Jesus’ prayer, in verse 25 Jesus specifically calls him “Righteous Father.” How well do you know your heavenly Father? List below the words you would use to describe the character of God.

- 9. Looking back on your answer to application question 8, how well are you making your heavenly Father known to those you come in contact with each day?

What are you doing to share him with others?

- 10. Which verse or verses spoke to you as you were studying?

Write them out below. Did they comfort you? Did they challenge you? Did they encourage you? Briefly explain why you chose them?