



3/10/26

So... for some reason, today's passage reminded me of a poem I wrote last year. I thought I would share it with you. It's called, This is My Prayer.

*O LORD, let me be sincere in faith, sincere in love, filled with wisdom from above...
my confidence in You growing more every day... in who You are and what You say...
surrendering all to You alone... until the day You take me home.*

*This is my prayer... this is my song. With You, my Father, I belong.
My soul clings to You alone... Until the day You take me home.*

*Let me receive that I'm Your delight, safe in Your love, let me hear Your song in the night.
Let me not be the judge of what You say, but instead I will listen, believe, and obey.*

*This is my prayer... this is my song. With You, my Jesus, I belong.
My soul clings to You alone... Until the day You take me home.*

*I believe You are truth, You are always the same. I humbly choose to bow to Your name.
I bow my thoughts, wants, and deeds to You alone, until the day You take me home.*

*This is my prayer... this is my song. With You, Holy Spirit, I belong.
My soul clings to You alone... Until the day You take me home.*

*And on that day I see Your face, with all Your power, love, affection, and grace...
with all the old gone, and all things made new... every day of eternity I will celebrate You.
I'll cry "Holy, holy, holy are You alone" and praise You forever in my new home.*

*This is my prayer... this is my song. With You, my Lord, I belong.
My soul clings to You alone... Until the day You take me home.*

Blessings,

Jonna

John 17:1-8

This chapter in John comes on the night Jesus was arrested. It's called, "The High Priestly Prayer." It's so beautiful. God gives us a glimpse of the relationship between Father and Son. He gives us truth. He gives us a greater picture of His love for us. Over the next three days, I get to spend some time taking in what Jesus thought was so important to pray on the night He was betrayed, not just by Judas, but by all the disciples who deserted Him when He was arrested. I find it mind blowing that His whole focus was not on Himself, but He was mostly praying for all who believed in Him and eventually would believe in Him. That in itself is such a beautiful picture of His gentleness and humility and love. Lord, please teach me more of who You are. Take me deeper with You.

Part I: John 8:1-8 ~

Vs. 1 starts out, "When Jesus had spoken these words..." What words? In chapter 13, at the last supper, He washed the disciples' feet and spoke of His disciples following His example by becoming a servant. Washing feet was considered the lowest of all acts... even the lowest servants weren't asked to wash people's feet. How far did Jesus Himself go for us? He offered Himself as the lowest servant possible... for my salvation.

In chapter 14, He spoke of the Holy Spirit and the role He would have in our lives. In chapter 15, He spoke of abiding in Him as a branch abides in the vine... for apart from Him we can do NOTHING. So He offers Himself to us in the most intimate of relationships. He spoke of how the world would hate us, but the Holy Spirit will help us. In chapter 16, He told us MORE about the Holy Spirit and the hope we have in Him. He said, "I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

And now, when He finished saying "these things," He lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, since you have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him." Why did Jesus want the Father to glorify Him? For MY sake!!! His glory is not a selfish glory. It's a generous glory. The Father gave Him authority. What authority? A loving authority... to give eternal life to all the Father gave Him. His whole purpose in coming was to give life... eternal life! What IS eternal life?

"And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." Eternal life is NOT about being given a "get out of jail free card." It's about KNOWING the Father and Jesus His Son. God created us for relationship with Him. He has always wanted to have relationship with us. He sent His Son to restore relationship with us.

This is why I can't just view prayer and the word as a checklist. If I do, I miss out on the incredible privilege of deepening my relationship with God. He went through enormous lengths

to reconcile me to Him. O Lord, I want to KNOW You more and more. The more I see You through Your word and through conversation with You, the more I get to know You, the more You reveal to me the secret and hidden things of God (1 Corinthians 2:7). The more I see You the more I become like You (1 John 3:2).

Father, You sent Jesus so that I COULD know You... not so that I could be a great rule follower. Let me never just go through the motions to appease You. What a waste of time that would be! Please remove anything in me that hides the eyes of my heart from seeing You.

Jesus said, "I glorified You on earth, having accomplished the work that You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in your own presence with the glory that I had with You before the world existed." Jesus is the reason I no longer resent having to submit to my husband or to anyone He places over me with authority. Jesus is God. Jesus is equal with God. And yet Jesus submitted to the will of the Father. He emptied Himself of His glory to come to earth in the likeness of sinful man, to become a servant... so that I could have eternal life. His submission is my example.

Now He's asking the Father to restore His glory. He will have to go through a suffering I can't even comprehend as He who knew no sin becomes sin and takes all the punishment of my sin on Himself. This is a restoration of glory, not a first time giving of glory. Jesus had this glory BEFORE THE WORLD EXISTED. Jesus is GOD. He gave up this glory for me. O Lord, please help me to follow in the footsteps of Jesus... and enjoy a sweet intimacy with You that is beyond comprehension.

Jesus asked that His glory would be restored... but He did not ask selfishly. Even this glory of His was His gift to me. I will see in vs. 22 that He wants to share His glory with me, and I will see in vs. 24 that He wants me to be with Him and see His glory. This is all about relationship!!!

Jesus prayed, "I have manifested Your name to the people whom You gave Me out of the world. Yours they were, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that everything that You have given Me is from You." In John 1:18, the Apostle John said, "No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known." It was Jesus' mission to be the exact representation of the Father and to make Him known. That's exactly what He did. He accomplished His mission. He manifested, revealed, the Father to those who He gave Him out of the world... all who respond to Him in faith.

He said, "Yours they were and You gave them to Me." This is so hard to understand... It's the tension between God's sovereignty and my responsibility to turn to Him. On the one hand it says the Father gave them to Jesus out of the world. On the other hand, it says they came to know/believe that everything Jesus did was from the Father. I won't understand this fully until I get to heaven. But this I do understand, God came to the WHOLE world... but not all the world will acknowledge Jesus as Lord. And there will not be one person in the prison of hell who says, "I genuinely wanted a relationship with God, but He didn't want me."

Also, Jesus is specifically talking about the disciples here. He will speak of all who believe in Him in verse 20 when He says, "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word." After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned His disciples to make more disciples... Praise God, they did! Their ministry continues on today, 2000 years later.

I know God's plan requires me to respond in faith. He doesn't just make me a robot... because that wouldn't be love. Jesus said, "For I have given them the words that You gave Me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me." Let me not miss this. Jesus GAVE us the words. He came to MAKE the Father known. My job is not to figure it all out on my own and clean myself up to come to God. My job is to LISTEN to the truth, to RECEIVE the truth and KNOW the truth, and to BELIEVE the truth. Jesus, You ARE the truth. Your WORD is truth. Please help me to cling to Your truth over my feelings or over any other voices that would distract me from You.

I praise You that Your glory is my gain. I praise You that You want me to know You. I receive Your word. I believe it. Let it bring me closer and closer to You. I look forward to the day You take me home when I get to see Your glory in all its splendor, beauty, and majesty.