



8/11/26

*John 17:13-26 ~*

*Today, I finish the Lord's Prayer... not the one Jesus taught me to pray, but the one He prayed and modeled for me. Like the official "Lord's Prayer", Jesus spoke to His Father, as He calls me to do. He also spoke of His kingdom and His will. He spoke of His provision. Jesus asked the Father to do what He already knew the Father would do, and yet He still asked. He modeled for me the importance of prayer... and the perspective of the gospel.*

*In Matthew 9, Jesus said to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers. Here, in John 17, He's praying for the laborers.*

*Vs. 13 ~ "But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves."*

*Jesus told the disciples earlier that night that He wants us to abide in Him, to let His word abide in us, and to abide in His love... that we may have His joy, and that our joy may be full. Here, He says it again. Regardless of any circumstance I face, the Lord wants to fill me with His joy. Even though I can't see Him, I can still have His joy... even if the world hates me, or if I face difficult trials, or whatever the situation, I can face it with the fullness of His joy. Lord, it's so easy for me to think of You as not having joy.*

*Nehemiah 8:10 say that Your joy is my strength. I can see that. Joy strengthens me to face trials, as Your joy gave You the strength to endure the cross. Psalm 16:11 says that in Your presence there is fullness of joy. Romans 14:17 says that Your kingdom is joy in the Holy Spirit. You want me to have Your joy. That's why You spoke. That's what You prayed for. Please help me to abide in You so that I don't kink the hose of Your joy flowing to my heart.*

*Vs. 14-16 ~ "I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the*

world."

*I have Your word because You gave it to me. You want me to know You. What is one of the most loving things someone does to love another? They're vulnerable and real and honest. They open their heart to reveal what's deep down. That's what You did for me by giving me Your whole word... words that allow me to cry out to You in my pain, to celebrate with You in my gladness, to find hope in You for my salvation and forgiveness. It's all there, O Lord.*

*The world hates Your word, and they hate anyone who follows Your word. 1 Peter 4:3-4 says they are surprised that Your people love Your word and they malign us. 1 Corinthians 3 says they think we're fools for loving You and Your word. This is no surprise to You. Let it be no surprise to me.*

*Jesus, You prayed that the Father would not take us out of the world, but keep us from the evil one. Truly, the devil has no power over my soul... only power I voluntarily give him when I get caught into his deceit. But You will not allow him to have victory over me. I understand now that You don't take me out of the world when I'm saved because You have a purpose for me while I'm here... to be a light to a dark world, that some might turn to You, be crucified with Jesus, and be born again so that they might be with You in heaven forever. O Lord, please help me to be Your faithful light.*

*Vs. 17-19 ~ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."*

*How does the Lord keep us from the evil one? He sanctifies us in the truth of His word. That's why I need to know His word. Jerry Bridges, in his book, *The Blessing of Humility*, says that I will only have as much growth in righteousness in my life, through the process of sanctification, as I'm allowing God's word to impact my soul. I have to take it in, consume His word as rich delicacy, and let Him use it to transform me to be like Jesus.*

*To be sanctified is to be set apart, to be holy, to be consecrated to the Lord. The Lord's plan for me is to be made more and more holy, like Him. Is that my plan? Am I cooperating with Him in His plan or am I working against Him? O Lord, please help me to cooperate with You. That's where the joy grows more and more.*

*I need to be sanctified because the Lord is sending me into the world as Jesus was in the world. How was Jesus in the world? He was a servant leader, a light to the world. He had a very focused mission... to bring the good news of salvation to a dying world. Though He knew so many would reject Him, He still gave Himself for us. He wants me to have the same mission. This world is a battlefield for the souls of mankind... and a mission field. No matter where I am or what I'm doing, I'm on a mission field where the enemy of my soul fights to blind eyes and steal souls.*

*So what has Jesus done? For my sake, He's consecrated Himself... He's sanctified Himself... to the point of setting Himself on the cross, so that I COULD be sanctified in truth. Jesus IS the way, the TRUTH, and the life.*

*Vs. 20-21 ~ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."*

*How do I know that I can apply these words to myself and not just the disciples? Jesus said He was praying for all who would believe in me through their word... their testimony, their repeating of all they learned from Jesus. I heard the gospel and I responded, and Jesus prayed for me. He wants all believers to be one, to be unified, just as He and the Father are completely unified. Wow. This is a massive calling. The unity of the Father and the Son is so complete and perfect that they never disagree on any point. Not one. This is what God wants for His people. This is what testifies to the world that Jesus is real and the gospel is true. It is not our judgment of immortality or even how good I am as an individual. It is our unity as the body of Christ, with Jesus as our Head. As the song goes, "They will know we are Christians by our love", which is a quote from Jesus' words in John 13:35, "By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*

*So... as I'm learning more about storming the throne for the lost, I learn first of all that I need to pray. And then I see that I need to be known for loving my brothers and sisters in Christ. That will have far more impact on the unbelievers, because speaking the word without love is ineffective for the gospel. And it's not just that they see me love them... It's that they see me love other believers, that they see our unity. Wow. I wonder how badly we as the body of Christ in America are hindering the gospel because we don't love as Jesus loved. O Lord, please forgive me and grow my love for other believers as well as for the unbelievers.*

*Vs. 22-23 ~ "The glory that You have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me."*

*I see here the beauty of Your glory that is so different from the glory of the world. Your divine glory unifies people rather than dividing them. Your glory perfects us in unity. It is so different than any other religion... to be unified in relationship with our God and with each other. This is what heaven will be like... this is what You want us to experience here on earth. This is how the world sees that You love Your people, Father, as You love Jesus.*

*How do You love Jesus, Father? When He was baptized, You told the whole world that He was Your beloved Son and You were pleased with Him. You sent Your Spirit to lead Him and strengthen Him. When He suffered You comforted Him. You raised Him from the dead as You said You would. You love me like that. Your love doesn't mean that I will never face suffering just as Jesus was not exempt from suffering. But Your love promises me that I will never face suffering alone, and it will not consume me... just as it did not consume Him.*

*Vs. 24 ~ "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

*Even though Jesus prayed that His people would not be taken out of the world, that was not a forever prayer... It was a "not yet" prayer. Please don't take them out of the world YET. But, His ultimate desire is to take us home with Him to see His glory... His glory that unifies, that fills us with everlasting joy, that allows us to experience the fullness of His love that is indescribable. Everything I face here on this earth is temporary. The glory is coming. Praise His name! I praise You, Lord, that it's Your DESIRE for me to be with You. As I have to learn to be patient in the waiting, You are modeling extreme supernatural patience as You allow Your purpose to be fulfilled in Your perfect timing. The amount of suffering I face in this broken world is nothing, it's a speck, compared to the massive view You have of a broken world that continues to mock You and say You don't exist or that You're cruel or weak. The mocking did not stop at the cross. Your patience with this broken world AND with Your people who continue to drift away from You is beyond comprehension. O Lord, please help me to be one with You, to be sanctified, to not drift. Help me to love as You love because I am fully loved by You.*

*Vs. 25-26 ~ "O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me. I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

*Yes, Jesus. I KNOW that the Father sent You. I praise You that 2000 years later You are continuing to make His name known to me, so that I can know that I am adopted, loved, set apart... so that I can know that I have a place with You forever. Please help me not to quench Your work in my life so that I can faithfully live for You in this world as long as You have me here. Help me to understand that the greatest testimony I have of the gospel is when people see me loving Your people, and loving the unbelievers by standing on the truth of Your word with gentleness, compassion, and kindness... just as You have done for me.*

*Thank You, Jesus, for praying this prayer. Help me to learn from You. Help me to see what You value, and help me to value it as well. Amen.*