

Lean in and Listen. Jesus has a Message for You.

Week 8 notes

John 17

A Message of Victory

Ah, we come to our last week together. I hope you have heard from the Lord as we have studied these chapters in John. Jesus' final messages to His disciples are for us too. A message of love, comfort, joy, hope and victory.

John 17 is a prayer. It is a blessed conversation that we are privileged to read. The prayer is from the lips of Jesus, spoken to the Heavenly Father. It is often called the High Priestly Prayer.

The High Priest of the Old Testament came into the Holy of Holies once a year on the Day of Atonement to offer sacrifices for the sin of the people. His garments were representative of his role as the high priest. He was to represent the people to God and he was to represent God to the people. It was an awesome and holy responsibility.

The book of Hebrews describes Jesus as our high priest, fulfilling the role of both the sacrifice as well as the priest. He was the lamb slain for the sins of the world and He is also the high priest interceding for us even today. In John 17, Jesus is praying for us. It is a humbling and beautiful prayer, especially when we realize how much the Lord loves us. We were on His mind as He faced Calvary.

Jesus is not praying as one who is about to be defeated. In fact, the opposite is true. He is praying as the Overcomer. We too are overcomers because of the victory of Christ.

Lean in and Listen to all He prays for you.

I. Security (We are secure in Christ John 17:1-12)

Verses 1-3

Jesus knows the time has come for His crucifixion. He has been faithful to fulfill His purpose for which God sent Him. He has glorified God the Father and God the Father will no glorify, lift up, the Son. He is faithful to offer eternal life to believers.

Jesus explains eternal life in verse 3. It is important. *“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”*

Eternal life is knowing God through a personal relationship with Jesus. It is more than knowing ABOUT God. It is knowing Him because we know Jesus. Jesus is the only way to God. When we know Christ, we are secure. Our salvation is secure.

A. We are gifts

Four times in this prayer (vs 2,6,9,24) Jesus refers to believers as those whom God has given Him. Often, we think of Jesus as God’s gift of love to the world, ***but have you ever realized YOU are God’s gift of love to Jesus?***

When you are feeling unimportant or worthless or like a seeming failure, remember Jesus does not view you that way. He sees you as a gift of love, given to Him by the Father. Amazing, huh?

Furthermore, God is faithful and true. He never takes back His gifts. We are gifts forever, never revoked or rejected.

B. We know the Father

John 17:6 “I have manifested Thy name...” NASV

John 17:6 “I have revealed You...” NIV

Jesus acknowledges, He has revealed who God is, what God is like, and how God responds by Jesus’ own words and actions. Jesus did not demonstrate the character of God is one blaze of glory. Instead He talked and walked and healed and loved people. The disciples saw Jesus in action and they understood they were seeing God. They understood the Father because they watched and learned from the Son.

Not only did they understand, they believed Jesus came from God, and they obeyed Him. Through the disciples, Jesus is lifted up—He is glorified.

We know God because we know Jesus. Not only do we know Christ, but we also believe His word and we obey. Through this we glorify Christ—we lift Him up. We understand that we are IN CHRIST and nothing can snatch us out of His hand.

C. We are Secure

Verse 11-12

*“Holy Father, **keep them in Thy name**, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one.”*

The term Holy Father is only used in the book of John. It gives us insight into awe inspiring reverence for God as well as the tender love He demonstrates.

Jesus is asking the Father to keep us, to guard us. What does He mean? Earlier, Jesus warns we will have tribulation (John 16:33) and the world will hate us and even persecute us (John 15: 18-20). So Jesus is not asking the Father to keep us from earthy harm or from difficult circumstances. We know we will have difficulties in this life.

Jesus is asking the Father to guard our eternal security. He is actually confirming that our eternal security has been granted. Our salvation is not based on our faithfulness to God. It is based on God’s faithfulness to us. He keeps His word and His love is everlasting. Nothing can separate us from His love. He is holding on to us because He is faithful. We do not hold on to God. Our own strength and our own good works do not assure our salvation. God does. Our salvation is based on the faithful, unchanging character of Holy Father.

Jesus prays the we will continue to be one. While He will pray for unity again later in the prayer, this “being one” in verse 11 is one “in likeness”. Paul talks about our commonality in Ephesians 3:4. We all come to God the same way-through Jesus. We all become members of the family through new birth. We all respond to the same gospel. All of us have the same position in the family of God. We are all “in Christ”, just as God is in Jesus and Jesus is in God. They are one and we are one

with Christ. We cannot be separated from Christ. There is great security in this truth of “oneness”.

II. Sanctity (We are being sanctified John 17:13-19)

Sanctified is one of those “churchy” words, but it is rich in meaning. To be *sanctified* means *to be set apart for God’s purpose, to practice holy living that glorifies God.*

The process of sanctification is a life-long process of learning who we are in Christ and how to live in all that we have been given in Christ. We get everything Christ has to offer the moment we receive Him, but we take a lifetime learning to live in it.

Jesus want us to experience great joy in this Christian life (Verse 13) In order to experience this joy, He has given us God’s Word. God’s Word is truth. There is a dynamic link between obeying truth and joy.

Warren Wiersbe points out we have truth in 3 versions

Jesus is Truth (John 14:6)

The Holy Spirit is Truth (John 14:17)

The Word of God is truth (John 17:17)

Jesus wants us to be set apart in truth—knowing it, believing it, and obeying it. Jesus, the Holy Spirt, and Scripture never work independently of each other. If you ever wonder if something is truth—go to God’s Word.

John 17: 15 Jesus prays, in the context of truth, that God will keep (guard) us from the evil one---Satan. Satan will use any means possible to deceive us. He will create doubt about the goodness of God. He will whisper half-truths to stir up confusion. He will use the philosophies of this world to lead us off course. He will lie—because he is the father of lies. Jesus does not want us to fall for the lies of the enemy. He wants us to be sanctified, set apart, drenched in truth.

He does not take us out of this old world. But He does watch over us while we are in it—guiding us with truth. Truth in Christ, the Spirit of Truth, and the Truth of the Word.

Verse 20 belongs to us! Jesus says He is praying all of these things for those who will believe because of the words of the disciples. That is us. We are benefactors of believers who have come before us and we are benefactors of Jesus' prayer for believers.

III. Unity (We can be unified in Christ John 17: 22ff)

We are one in Christ and we are also to be one with one another. Jesus does not mean uniform or all alike. We are all different—different giftedness, different personalities. But we can be unified in purpose and that purpose is to glorify God. When we, the church, are unified in purpose the world will notice. (verse 23). The world will understand that God has sent Jesus. In other words, the world will see Christ in us. They will see His love as we love one another and as we love those who hate us. They will see the character of God in us. They will see Jesus when they see us unified in one purpose.

What does the world see when they see you? What does the world see when they see the church?

Finally in verse 24-26 Jesus prays that we will be with Him in Heaven one day. He loves us and wants us to be with Him. He wants us to see for ourselves the glory that has been His since before time began.

Verse 26 brings me to thankful tears. Jesus wants the love of God to be in us just as it is in Him. That everlasting, agape love that loves us to the uttermost, planted deep into our lives---never changing, never leaving, never letting go. Oh, if we could ever grasp how much He loves us—it would change everything. It would change how we worship, how we love others, how we give, how we serve, how we live every day. He loves us—to the uttermost.