

Jesus' Final Prayer

- John devoted five chapters to Jesus' final night not in Matthew, Mark, or Luke.
- An entire chapter was dedicated to Jesus' final prayer before leaving the upper room to go to the garden of Gethsemane.
- *After Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, **the hour has come** ...
Jn 17:1*
- *When Jesus had spoken these words, He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered. Jn 18:1-2*

Jesus' Final Prayer

- There are three distinct subjects in His prayer:
- First, He prays for the work He has now finished:
- *1 After Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, **the hour has come.** Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ... 4 I have glorified You on the earth. **I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.** 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. Jn. 17:1-5*

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- Second He prays for His apostles
- *"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Jn 17:6, 14-17*
- *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. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 **They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.** 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

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- Third, He prays for all future disciples:
- ***"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. John 17:20-23***

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- **He prayed for our greatest need.**
- *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that **they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one just as We are one**: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that **they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. John 17:20-23*

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- Jesus prayed, as one knowing the future and seeing all the threats His disciples would face.
- *But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, 3 men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. 1Tim. 4:1-4*
- He prayed to protect His disciples from this.

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- Jesus prayed as one knowing the future and seeing all the threats His disciples would face.
- *Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2Th. 2:3-4*
- He prayed to protect His true disciples from this

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- Jesus prayed as one knowing the future and seeing all the threats His disciples would face.
- *The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2Th. 2:9-12*
- His prayer was designed to protect us from this.

Jesus Had Already Warned!

- He revealed that His “*disciples*” would stray so far from this unity that it would actually obscure the gate to heaven! Mt 7:13-14
- There would be so many paths and gates converging together that “*wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction,*” and “*many who go in by it.*”
- This created the exact opposite of what the unity He prayed for would produce!

As We Look at the World

- Today we see the grave conditions Jesus knew were coming and both warned against and prayed for His true disciples to avoid.
- *Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. Mt. 7:13-14*
- By ignoring His prayer, these **self-called** “*disciples*” have created the very conditions He prayed about.

As We Read Jesus Prayer...

- Are we doing our part to fulfill His plea?
- *I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word:*
- ***they all may be one***
- ***that they also may be one in Us***
- ***that they may be one just as We are one***
- ***they may be made perfect in one***
- *that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.*
- We have no control over those who ignore, but what about us? Are we trying to fulfill it?

Genuine Disciples Live His Prayer

- *I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, 2 with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, 3 endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Eph. 4:1-6*

Genuine Disciples Live His Prayer

- *Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. 11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 1Cor. 1:10-13*

Jesus Gave the Solution

- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:31-32*
- His word: the absolute standard of truth and error
- John summed it up.
- *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 1Jn 4:6*