

Series: The Gospel of John

Day 17: The High Priestly prayer

Prayer:

Let's pray.

Father in Heaven and High Priest by His side, today I feel incapable of illuminating this passage and even incapable of praying. Because today we are entering the holy conversation between You and Your Father

Your High Priestly prayer.

Grant that the Spirit himself may come to work in the hearts of the listeners.

Amen

Introduction

In our walk through the Gospel of John, we turned to the second major section, chapters 13-17, which dealt with the disciples' preparation for their ministry.

- Chapter 13-17 The preparation of the disciples
 - 13: For high service, bow down
 - 14: Don't be upset
 - 15: Abide in me and bear fruit that you may have complete Joy
 - 16: No one can take your joy away from you.
 - 17: Chapters 14, 15 and 16s prayer joy culminate in ... chapter 17
- Chapter 18-21 The crucifixion

Chapter 13 said for high service, bow down. Don't be upset, but abide in Me and bear fruit that you may have complete joy. Yesterday we heard nobody can take away your joy. We find the highlight of the prayers Chapters 14, 15 and 16 in Chapter 17: The high priestly prayer

Chapter 17: The high priestly prayer

Verse one says:

1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said,

And then his prayer starts.

Just before we start reading it together, just a few thoughts. Why is this prayer called the high priestly prayer?

Leviticus 16:17 reads as follows:

17 No one may be in the tent of meeting from the time he enters to make atonement in the Holy Place until he comes out and has made atonement for:

- *himself*
- *and for his house*
- *and for all the assembly of Israel.*

The Bible then portrays Jesus Christ as our High Priest.

Hebrews 7: 26-28 reads as follows:

26 For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 28 For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

If we start to read Chapter 17, we are just before the one and final Day of Reconciliation, where He Himself would be the sacrifice. Jesus prays as High Priest:

- **For himself (verses 1-6)**
- **The disciples (verses 7-19)**
- **and all the believers (verses 20-26)**

This is then his final earthly prayer (and teaching) for the disciples. After this he would pray heavenly prayers as High Priest.

- He is our advocate - 1 John 2: 1
- He intercedes for us- Hebrews 7: 25
- He pleads there for us- Romans 8:34

I really feel incapable today to discuss this passage because every chapter in the Gospel of John have many verses and has a lot of depth and is very rich but each one lend them so that I could take out a smaller passage and focus on it, but I think we will do injustice to this chapter if we only cover one section in such a short time, so I'm just going to read it aloud.

The High Priest Prays for Himself

“Father, the hour has come;

glorify your Son

that the Son may glorify you,

You will notice as we read, the brown part about what God gives, appears often...

"Father, the hour has come;

glorify your Son

that the Son may glorify you,

2 since you have given him authority over all flesh,

to give eternal life

to all whom you have given him.

3 And this is eternal life,

that they know you,

the only true God,

and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

4 I glorified you on earth,

having accomplished the work

that you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence

with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

6 "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.

The High Priest Prays for the Disciples

7 Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.

8 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.

They know, they received it and they believed the Father gives and He sent Jesus Christ.

9 I am praying for them.

I am not praying for the world

but *for those whom you have given me,*
for *they are yours.*
10 All *mine are yours,*
and *yours are mine,*
and I am glorified in them.

They believed, they belong to the Father and they glorify the Son.

11 *And I am no longer in the world,*
but *they are in the world,*
and *I am coming to you.*
Holy Father, keep them in your name,
which you have given me,
that they may be one,
even as we are one.
12 *While I was with them, I kept them in your name,*
which you have given me.
I have guarded them,
and not one of them *has been lost*
except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

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.

14 *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 ask*
that you take them out of the world,
but ***that you keep them from the evil one.***

16 *They are not of the world,*
just as *I am not of the world.*

17 *Sanctify them in the truth;*
your word is truth.

18 As you sent me into the world,
so I have sent them into the world.
19 And for their sake I consecrate myself,
that they also may be sanctified in truth.

The High Priest Prays for all the believers

He says He doesn't only pray for the disciples, from here on the prayer is for you also.

20 "I do not ask for these only,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
21 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.

22 The glory that you have given me
I have given to them,
that they may be one even as we are one,
23 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.

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.

25 O righteous Father,
even though the world does not know you,
I know you, and these know that you have sent me.
26 I made known to them your name,
and I will continue to make it known,
that the love with which you have loved me

