

SERMON: JOHN 17 – BY MARY M. BODIE

In this chapter of John, we hear the Lord Jesus Christ talking; He is talking as though the cross were past. This is the high priestly prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Loyal Priest) which is given here. He is a Mighty King and a Mighty Lord—Sovereign of the universe! His Father is back of Him, and here He is talking to His Father as though He wishes the glory of the Father to be manifested to the uttermost.

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:" [Joh.17:1]

This is victory! Jesus knew He was going to die on the cross, facing shame and everything that the world hates, yet, He said calmly, "*Father, the hour is come.*"

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." [Joh.17:2]

Here Christ is seen as in His own kingdom already. We are in the kingdom of His love when we are saved! He has put us in His care. In Colossians, we read that we are in His kingdom now.

Notice the words **give** and **given**. Save, give, and given are mentioned 15 times in this chapter.

"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." [Joh.17:3]

This is not a definition of eternal life, but, in this instance, He emphasizes our part in it. To have eternal life is to know God. When we have eternal life, we are a part of God and His Son.

"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." [Joh.17:4]

The cross was not past yet, but He saw it as already past and as though He were in heaven with His Father.

"And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." [Joh.17:5]

He had glory with His Father before the world had existence. He wanted that place on the throne with His Father and He got it.

In the first 5 verses we read of Christ's prayer for the glory of His Father. Now, in Verses 6 through 19, we read of His prayer for his disciples.

"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word." [Joh.17:6]

He gave His testimony to the disciples who suffered with Him. There are some people who do not love the Lord deeply or do not walk with Him every day. There are others who keep the Word of the Lord and don't care what other folks

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say; they love the Lord and are out-and-out for Him. They witness to His Word and tell how it will come to pass.

"Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee." For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine." [Joh.17:7-9]

He had a special prayer for those disciples who walked with Him in humiliation. He isn't praying for the world today either, because He knows just exactly how the world is going.

The Jews rejected Him and turned away from Him; they did not love or care for Him. They let the Romans nail Him to the tree (the cross). At the end of the age, the Gentiles are going to have the same attitude. They will turn away from Him about the time He will come again. There is an Antichrist that is going to take over.

"And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them." [Joh.17:10]

See how closely He is connected with the Father?

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." [Joh.17:11]

He calls God **his father** 5 times. He prayed that The Church would be one. God the Father made provision for that later when all The Church was baptized in the Holy Spirit. God's people are one with each other just as He and His Father are one. Do you believe this?

Joh.17:12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled."

The word **world** is mentioned 14 times in this chapter. Jesus says that none of them was lost except **Judas** ("son of perdition").

"And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." [Joh.17:13-14]

He has taken us out of the world and separated us. The cross is between us and the world. He was not of this world; we are not of this world...we are different! While we are here, we are witnesses of His work on the cross.

"I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." [Joh.17:15-16]

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This is His high-priestly prayer; we are on holy ground here. The Lord is keeping us from evil!

"And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth." [Joh.17:19]

Here, **sanctification** means "separation from the world." We are sanctified now—separated from the world by the death of Jesus Christ. We are separated more and more as we read the Truth. When we go back into the world, we are crossing over the cross of Christ because He set that in our way.

We have the surest thing in all the universe. The greatest thing in this chapter is the privilege of being associated with Christ and being joined with Him. He is preparing a company of people to sit on the throne with Him. He has blessed us who are in this age more than in any other age. How glad we ought to be, living so near the coming of the Lord! What do we care of the world and its little tinsel. We belong to heaven where the streets are pure gold!

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;" [Joh.17:20]

Here is Christ's prayer for The Church—all the saints. He prayed that we might believe on Him.

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." [Joh.17:21]

If all those in the world who are saved could be gathered together in one place, wouldn't that be a wonderful testimony to the world? They would say, "Look at those people, how they love each other. They all look alike. They are God's people."

"Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovest me before the foundation of the world." [Joh.17:24]

When Jesus requests something, He gets it because He is one with His Father. He just wills it and He gets what he wills. We are going to behold His glory!

"O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." [Joh.17:25-26]

He wants that same love in us. We are one with the people of God.

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ONE WITH CHRIST

MADE ONE WITH CHRIST, O WHAT A BLISSFUL UNION,
MADE ONE WITH HIM WHAT BLESSED, SWEET COMMUNION.
ONE THRU THE BLOOD THAT POURED FROM CALV'RY'S MOUNTAIN.
PRAISE HIM FOREVER FOR THE CLEANSING FOUNTAIN.

ONE IN HIS SUFF'RING, ONE IN PAIN AND SORROW;
HE GIVES THE CROSS TODAY, THE CROWN TOMORROW;
ONE IN REPROACH AND ONE TO SHARE HIS GLORY;
LONG AS LIFE LASTS, I'LL TELL THE BLESSED STORY.

ONE IN THE MIND OF HIM WHEN HE WAS DYING;
ONE WITH HIM IN THE TOMB WHERE HE WAS LYING;
ONE WITH HIM IN HIS HEAVENLY ASCENSION;
ONE ON THE THRONE, WHAT WONDROUS CONDESCENSION!

ONE WITH HIM NOW WHILE O'ER HE LOST HE'S YEARNING;
ONE WITH HIM WHEN TO EARTH HE IS RETURNING;
ONE WITH HIM WHILE THE THRONE HE IS REGAINING;
ONE FOR A THOUSAND YEARS OF EARTHLY REIGNING.

CHORUS: MADE ONE WITH HIM WHO DIED FOR ME,
ONE THROUGH THE BLOOD FROM CALVARY;
MADE ONE WITH HIM, I WORSHIP AND ADORE;
JESUS AND I ARE ONE FOREVERMORE.

