

## #2 Jesus is Praying for You

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Introduction, Part 2

Date: Sunday, January 13, 2019

Scripture: John 17:18-26

Do you know Jesus is praying for you?

The prayer found in John 17 is not “free standing,” but rather inseparably connected to the events that preceded it (John 13-16) and followed it (John 18). In John 17, we see the *passion* of Christ (the cross) and the *mission* of Christ (the church) woven together.

Jesus is praying and petitioning the Father for His return to glory (though it be by way of shame and suffering on the cross) AND that those who believe on His name (who receive His promise of eternal life) would be preserved in the world and would see and share the glory that was uniquely His in heaven. Read John 17:3.

Why did Jesus come?

**Jesus came that we might know God.** How is this possible? —His sacrifice, the payment, the consequence, and the penalty of our sins. Read Colossians 2:14. *Jesus in my place* is the message of the gospel. Through Christ, we can know God. And knowing God is to see and share the victory of eternal life. Jesus came on a redeeming mission.

Our focus today is John 17:18, 20-21. The finished work of Christ is His passion and suffering completed on the cross, but the unfinished work of Christ is the mission of Christ through us (His church) to be accomplished in the world.

**Jesus calls that we might make Him known.** Christ, having secured access to the Father for us, now enlists us to take part in His glorious mission of bringing others to God through Him. This mission, while personal in impact, is global in outreach!

Read John 17:20-21. The unity referenced here is not to be institutional or emotional, but observable. The display of this genuine love among believers gives witness as we adhere to the gospel through sacrifice and service for the mission of Christ. This love becomes a gospel appeal to the world.

Because of what Christ has done, we can know God, but the evidence of this reality (of this knowledge) is to live to make Him known.

This is the opportunity, responsibility and activity of every single follower of Christ. No one is exempt and all are expected to share in this mission.

Christ prayed in John 17:22-23, "... being one that the world may see and know"—one in the knowledge of God and one in the witness of Christ. This is a call for us to renew and refocus 2019 on our mission—M1 = Mission One: Know God. Make Him Known.

Almost every church from the start begins with a focus on the mission of being sent into the world. Yet as time goes on, the mission can get lost in the ministries and activities of the church. These are words we read and even affirm, but often activities and objectives are left to others (pastor, staff, etc.) rather than to us! As time goes by, we can become more motional and less missional. We settle down and we get comfortable at church. But comfortable Christianity is not missional Christianity. A missional faith drives us to take risks, to make sacrifices, to embrace responsibility, and to do whatever it takes to get the gospel to those around us.

"The church is not about *us*; the church is all about *Jesus!*"

Renewal of call = John 21:1, 6. I am resolved to give my life and to keep our focus on this mission. For this reason, I am going to make the biggest "ask" on you I have ever presented in my years as your pastor.

Peter had failed the Lord. He had gone back to fishing, but in the end, he was renewed in call and commission—follow Me (fishers of men).

Today I want to invite you to take a trip, make a journey with Christ in 2019, which will be thrilling and disturbing. I want us to regain and refocus the priority status of the mission of Christ for us personally and individually, spreading our nets to reach those who are not yet reached. Peter and friends failed at the one thing they knew *before* Jesus, but they would not fail at the one thing they were called to do *after* Jesus.

John 21:19b: "After this, He told him, follow Me." Through these words, Peter first heard his call from Jesus to refocus and reclaim with Him. "Follow Me" and the rest would be fishers of men. The call to follow is an invitation to fellowship, but it is also a call to action.

Knowing God. Making Him Known. This is not " Knowing God AND Making Him Know. It is not two statements, but one!

"Jesus fills our nets when we obey His command."

So here's the challenge:

**M1: To pray ONE prayer for ONE person and have ONE conversation to share ONE celebration as that ONE comes to know Jesus.**

This began to stir in my heart in July, and I've been praying about this for me and for all of us. Today, I am asking you to focus on "One"...

**One Prayer.** The Wailing Wall in Israel is full of requests. There is nothing magical, but strategic. I put the name of my grandchildren there.

We have a new wall, a "wailing wall," of our hearts. I want you to put the names of people you love, care about, and want to share with in that wall.

**One Person.** You may know their name or just know where they work, where you see them etc.

**One Conversation.** The gospel. This is the message of Christ's finished work for us. We are not enlisting people in religion (example: try harder and do better). We are calling people to Christ—faith and trust in the finished work of Christ.

Many of you may not know the gospel or how to share it. Throughout the year, we are going to offer several opportunities to learn and to grow in this effort.

**One Celebration.** I am praying for joy-filled testimonies of people (YOU and ME) leading people to Christ. I pray many of these can be seen and shared in baptismal pools throughout our campus and in various gatherings.

Read Luke 15:10.

The very matter I am sharing with you is something that became both dynamic and disruptive in the life of a man and his family who are part of the Warren family, though now living in a different community.

Testimony of Chris Wilkins (Rebecca, Peyton, Cy and Maris).

Read John 17:25-26. Jesus is praying for you!