

Prestonwood Connection 2004

Look To Jesus And Jesus Alone

John 17

Wednesday, April 28, 2004 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message *Look To Jesus And Jesus Alone*] < 39 >

There's something I know about Mike Fechner is that he believes that he lives that in his life. He loves Jesus Christ. He makes me wanna love Jesus more when I'm around him and a..., I am so thankful for his friendship, his love, his service and faith and for this testimony in song tonight. It's been wonderful Mike, thank you and Christ Machen, great to have you leading tonight in the absence of Rick Briscoe, we love you and Diane, thank you so much. [applause] It's always important to just take time to give God thanks and glory for all these wonderful singers and musicians that we have, but what an unusual treat it is to have Chris and Diane giving of their life and their time every Wednesday night to be a part of this with us and a..., God has given them, of course, a wonderful ministry. Chris travels around the nation and sings and writes beautiful music and a..., we're so thankful for his life and faith and a..., it's just great.

Well, you know for the majority of the year 2004 thus far we've been sitting, as though it were in The Upper Room and listening to the words of Jesus as He has been giving final instructions to His disciples and we've really called this series that I've done and shared with you, *What Does The Lord Require Of Me?* Because we really wanted to understand and have wanted to a..., remember what it means to be a true and authentic follower of Jesus Christ. And so we spent time looking at about 10 different a..., points of instruction that Jesus has given and provided for us, beginning in John 13 and going all the way through John 16. And it was in John 16:33 that we came to the end, the official end of The Upper Room Discourse last week. It's a climatic point, it's a point with exclamation points and it simply says this, the words of Jesus:

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer I have overcome the world."

And with that great statement of confidence and of victory, a statement that says, in Christ and Christ alone, we have overcome. We ended a wonderful time together. But really there is one final conversation that we need to observe and we need to review. Because between the end of that discourse and the arrest that occurs in the Garden of Gethsemane, there is a prayer of Jesus recorded in John chapter 17 and I want you to open your Bible to John 17, because I want us to take a few minutes tonight to walk through this prayer that Jesus prayed. We don't really know exactly where

and when it was prayed. Some would believe that it was a part of the prayer that Jesus prayed in the garden a..., others would say it was a prayer that He prayed before He got to the garden, but a..., what we know is that this was a part of the journey of something that Jesus shared in those final moments with His disciples. Now I think you know that one of the sweetest and most precious experiences that you can ever have is to spend time in prayer with another believer. One of the things that we love to do here on Wednesday nights is to have time that we just take time to pray, sometimes on our knees here at the altar, other times there in the pews as we turn together, pray together. But we really try to take time to pray for needs in our church family and I just wanna thank you for being a part of that. We use prayer cards a..., yellow ones that have the needs of our church family and ministry on it, blue ones that actually have the name of soldiers who are serving in the armed forces currently a..., over in Iraq and Afghanistan and places like this around the world and as the war continues to be a point of turbulence those families are ever in need of prayer and I'm so thankful for your prayer and your faithfulness. But prayer is a sweet place of fellowship and it's a wonderful way to get to know other believers, it's a wonderful way to...to be renewed spiritually. I know for my...for me sometimes a..., one of the greatest things that brings renewal and passion to my own heart and faith is to be with other believers and to hear them pray because as their heart is poured out before God there's a..., a freshness that comes to my own heart and a...and a desire and a compulsion, if you will, to say God I just wanna be more and do more in my walk with you. I've learned the joy of praying in church. I've learned the joy of praying in all sorts of settings with people, a..., praying, of course, many times at the bed of a hospital, a patient that's there, a..., praying over the telephone. I've actually gotten to where I pray much over my cell phone in the car as I'm ~~driving with people a...~~, talking to people while I'm driving. Now I watch and pray when I pray over the phone in that fashion but a..., but it's become another point of life and ministry and of sweetness for me as I've learned the joy of praying. But can you imagine what it would be like if you could literally have time to pray with Jesus as the disciples did? I mean in His physical presence as they were in that day and that time, that they were together and they prayed with Jesus and the Bible tells us something of what Jesus prayed and what Jesus shared in this time together. In fact it may interest you tonight to know that you are included in this prayer. Did you know that? In John 17 you are included in the prayer. And so tonight what I want us to do is I want us to take time to look at and to investigate this prayer together and I think it's significant for us to see that Jesus prayed for His disciples, because He'd been giving them all of these points of instruction, all of the things that we've talked about from John 13 to John 16 a..., have been challenges and...and...and points of insight and instruction, things that we are to do as followers of Christ. But I want you to remember tonight that all of God's requirements come with God's enablements and whatever God requires of you God enables you to do. Everything God demands of you God gives you the capacity and the ability to do it through the work and the power of His Spirit and it would only tonight seem right, to say to you that after Jesus gave instruction to His disciples He then prayed for those disciples and that prayer is a part of

the enablement. It reminds me of the verse in 1st Thessalonians chapter 5 that says:

Faithful is He who calls you, who also will do it.

And whatever God has called you to do, He will do in and through your life. And wherever you are tonight, whatever you're facing tonight, the challenges of obedience, as well as the challenges of endurance in your life, God will enable you. Jesus has prayed for you, in fact He ever lives to make intercession for us in heaven and tonight I'm thankful for the privilege of sharing together in what Jesus has been praying. Let's read together John 17 beginning in verse 1:

¹Jesus 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, ²as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory I had with You before the world was."

These are the opening words of this prayer of Jesus. In fact as I read these words and as I read this prayer I think about the fact that as I read these words I have one very important question answered in my life. What would Jesus pray? You know we've all had the little bracelets and the little mottos and all the things the WWJD, What would Jesus do? Well, tonight I'm gonna give you the WWJP, What would Jesus pray? Because we don't have to wonder about that, Jesus provides for us insight and understanding in prayer tonight and just as Jesus prayed for His disciples and has prayed for you I think we learn tonight something more, something fuller about what Jesus would pray and how we are to pray. In many ways we're in the holies of holies of the New Testament here, because here we have the Son, before the Father pleading and crying out on behalf of His followers and tonight I want you to know what Jesus prays and I wanna help you to know how to pray and to pray for one another. So I'm gonna give you 5 things tonight, 5 simple things that we learn about, What would Jesus pray? And I hope that they're things that you'll write down and take with you and will use as a point of encouragement in your own prayer life. Now I've read to you the opening 5 verses, but in those verses there has been the repetition of a word over and over again, a word that you cannot miss and that we must not mistake. He says in verse one:

... "...Glorify Your Son, and that your Son may also glorify you,"

And the theme of glory is something that is repeated here, in fact it's used 8 times here in this chapter and so I would say to you that because of the repetition of the word and the emphasis on glory that it is very important for us when we pray to understand that we are to...

PRAY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ABOVE ALL OTHER THINGS. Pray for the glory of

God above all other things. There are many issues of life that I do not understand what to pray or how to pray. I don't know the will of God. I don't know the will of God in sickness and suffering and struggle and pain and decision-making. God promises to lead me, to comfort me, to give me grace in all of these things, but the one thing that I know that I can pray above all other things, is I can pray for the glory of God above and beyond everything else. Pray for the glory of God. Pray that, well let me just give it to you in the form of the model prayer, because I really believe what Jesus is doing here is He's demonstrating once again what He gave us in the model prayer over there in Matthew chapter 6 verses 19 [should be 9] and father...following. You know the model prayer?

... *"Our Father Who art in heaven,..."*

You know the rest of the prayer. Think about what it says. It says:

... *"Our Father Who art in heaven, Hallowed by Your name."*

The focus of the prayer is that God's name would be magnified. And then it says:

"Your kingdom come..."

That is I pray that Your kingdom would be extended that in this world that is now filled with darkness and with defilement because of sin that instead the magnitude and the glory of Your kingdom would be extended and would be seen and know in this earth. And then ultimately:

"...Thy will be done On earth as it is in heaven."

Your will accomplished, Your name magnified, Your kingdom extended, Your will to be accomplished, this is how we pray for the glory of God in all thing. And Jesus in the opening words of this prayer in John 17 gave us the insight and the instruction of praying for the glory of God.

I shared yesterday with our Power Lunch group, because I was talking with them about their work life and doing everything you do to the glory of God that one of the interesting little matters out of history is that one of the greatest composers who ever lived was Johann Sebastian Bach. And Bach in all of his writings would always put there in that handwriting that you see, would always put, S.D.G., on every piece of music. To God alone be glory, *"solus deus glorior"* as it is in the Latin. And he simply said, whether it was his secular music or his sacred music he made no distinction, because he simply said that my life and all of my gifts are all for one purpose, it is all for the glory of God. So I'm simply saying to you that when you pray, in prayer as in all of life, S.D.G. *"solus deus glorior"* to God and God alone be the glory. All of life, all of history is the story of the glory of God. It is the story above and beyond all other stories and so when we pray one of the secrets to prayer is praying for the glory of God above all other things. But then there's something else that we see in this prayer of Jesus and we begin now to read again in

verse 8, He says:

⁸"For I have given to them the words which You have given to Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You, and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹I pray for them, I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You, Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have give to Me, that they may be one as We are."

Jesus prayed, not only for the glory of God above all things, Jesus...

PRAYED FOR PROTECTION AND PERSEVERANCE THROUGH HARDSHIPS. Why do we ask others to pray for us and do we commit to pray for others? Because there is a biblical pattern of praying for one another through hardships, protection and perseverance. Jesus prayed that we would be kept, that is His followers would be kept in the world. He was no longer going to be there with them. Now He had already promised that He was going to send His Holy Spirit and that the Spirit would lead them and guide them, but interestingly enough in the very prayer of Jesus He said, I'm praying for them that they may be kept. And we need to pray for one another. That's why we pray for our pastor and challenge you to pray for all of our ministers and for the leaders in this ministry and church. That's why we pray for our families and pray for students and pray for children and we pray for those who are going through sickness and bereavement in order that we may together be protected and may persevere even in times of hardship. You know there's really an incredible little insight on this if you look back to the gospel of Luke chapter 22, Luke chapter 22 I want you to turn back there with me for just a moment. [pause] Luke 22 in verse 31, [pause] Jesus is speaking to Simon Peter. Of course Simon was always a very outspoken person, always telling Jesus what he was gonna do and how he was gonna do it and how much Jesus could depend upon him. But listen to what Jesus said in verse 31 of Luke 22:

The Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat."

He said, Peter I wanna let you know something, I know there's a lot that you wanna do but I want you to know there's an enemy who is looking for an opportunity to literally put you into the grind, to sift you like wheat. But look at what Jesus says in verse 32:

"But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

We of course know that Peter ultimately denied the Lord at one of the most crucial moments in the whole unfolding of the passion of the Christ and yet Jesus said, Peter I've prayed for you. I've prayed for you that when you return to Me you will be used to strengthen other brethren. God comforts us and meets us at our points of need in order that we might be

able to comfort and strengthen others the Bible teaches us. And so one of the things that we learn about prayer is that prayer is an expression of dependence and the realization of grace that is needed every day in our lives and so when you pray, pray for protection and perseverance through hardships. Now let's continue again, John 17, if you'll go back there with me I wanna pick up once again and I know I'm leaving a few of these portions out, you can take time to go back and to...to read the entirety of this a...of this prayer and can get to know it and become very familiar with it. But I want us to go back now and pick up our reading again in verse 14. He...Jesus has been praying for them to be kept and then He says in verse 14:

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. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one."*

He's still praying for protection.

¹⁶*"They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by Your truth..."*

Read the rest of that out loud with me if you will.

"...Your word is truth."

Let's say that again.

"...Your word is truth."

Truth, one of the most significant things that Jesus talked about over and over during the discourse was the issue of truth. If you look back, keep your hand there, now let's just turn back a minute to a..., chapter 14 in verse 17, Jesus was talking to them there and...and giving them instruction about what they were to do and He says to them that they are going to receive; well let's just begin in verse 16:

¹⁶*"I pray the Father, that He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."*

He prays or He tells them that they're going to receive the Spirit of truth. And then again over in 16, chapter 16 and verse 13 Jesus makes emphasis about the Spirit of truth who guides us into truth. Truth, it's an important issue to Jesus, that we know the truth, that we live the truth, that a part of the protection and the perseverance of our life is in the realm of the truth. But what is the source of truth?

"...Your word..."

"...Your word is truth."

So when we pray and pray for one another not only do we pray for the glory of God...of God above all things and not only do we pray for protection and perseverance through hardships, but we are to...

PRAY THAT WE MAY KNOW THE TRUTH AND LIVE THE TRUTH IN OUR LIVES. Pray that you may know the truth and live the truth. Jesus has provided for you what you need for the truth, the Holy Spirit, the truth source, the Word of God and the Spirit of God and the Word of God are used in your life to strengthen you that you may live according to the truth. We're not to be blown about by every wind that comes. We're not to be shallow saints who are just tossed here and...and there on the surface issues of life. There's to be a sense of depth and of strength because we are rooted and grounded in the truth. He says here in this prayer that we are sanctified in the truth. Now that word sanctified, that's a big word isn't it? Sanctified, sanctification what does it mean? Some of us think...seem to think it just means fumigation, you know just kinda get it all cleaned up and cleared up. What it really means is being set apart. Something is sanctified when it is set apart. You have sanctified these seats tonight by sitting on them and using them for a purpose, a purpose that is according to truth, that you may know the truth and receive the truth and engage the truth of God. These pews are being used for their purpose tonight, they are fulfilling their mission providing seating that people may hear the Word of God. Whenever something is used for a specific purpose, especially the purpose for which it is intended it is sanctified. And God has given us His instruction manual for life, the Bible, the Word of God, that we may be sanctified in truth. And therefore we pray for the ministry of the Word of God. We pray for the reading of the Word of God and the embracing of the Word of God in our lives, that we may know the truth and that we may live the truth so that we may be instruments of His glory, set apart for His purpose in this world. You see the world is wandering in darkness, but Christians live in the light. His word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our part and therefore we pray that we may know the truth and that we may live the truth. Then look down in verse 20 of chapter 17 again. John 17 in verse 20, Jesus continues to pray and I want you to see this, this is very important. He says here:

²⁰*"I do not pray for these alone, but for those who will believe in Me through their word;"*

Who is He talking about? Hum? If you know the answer lift your hand. All right that's us, that's right, okay, you got it! Isn't it great to be able to say who's Jesus praying for here and clearly we understand that He says:

"I do not pray for these alone,..."

That is just the...the...those who are there, the disciples who are with Him, the eleven. He says I pray:

"...for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they may all

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."

He said, I prayed that there would be such reality in the lives of these and those who will hear, that the world will see and will know the truth concerning God the Father who is our Creator and Jesus Christ the Savior who has revealed the Father to us. Of course He talks much here about us being one with Him and one with the Father. In fact He goes on in verse 22 and says:

"...the glory which You gave Me I have given to them, that they may be one just as We are one:"

And so this prayer includes a...

PRAYER FOR INTIMACY WITH GOD AND UNITY WITH OTHER BELIEVERS. Jesus prayed that we might walk in intimacy with the Father, that we might know Him as we believe upon Him. Chapter 17 in verse 3, that opening verse that I read to you says:

"...this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,..."

Eternal life is knowing God, because to know Him is to know the secret of all of life and to live forever when you put your faith and your trust in Him and there's only one way to do that through Jesus Christ whom He sent. Jesus is the way of eternal life and it is when we know Him that we know the Way, the Truth and the Life. But Jesus prayed that there...we might have intimacy with the Father and unity with other believers. Two things, that destroy our witness in this world. Do you know what they are? When a person who confesses to know God is living disconnected in his fellowship with God and when a person who professes to know God is living with disputes, unresolved disputes towards his brothers and sisters in Christ. Disconnectedness from God, disputes with our brothers, it destroys our witness. It's what makes us hypocrites. It's what destroys our testimony and the...and the credibility of our love and our message and therefore Jesus prayed that we would be consistent in the pattern of knowing and growing in the knowledge of God and the love of Jesus Christ. So many of the prayers in the New Testament reflect this same pattern and passion. Let me just read to you one of those, Ephesians chapter 3, beginning in verse 14 Paul prayed:

~~*When I think of the wisdom and the scope of God's plan I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth—I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength...*~~

~~*I just need to be sure that the translation that I had here was the same translation that you guys were looking at with me. I had this horrible thought for a moment that I was messed up on my translations. Let me go up here I'm not. Let me go back.*~~

¹⁴When I think of the wisdom and scope of God's plan I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, ¹⁵the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. ¹⁶I pray that from His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you mighty inner strength through His Spirit. ¹⁷And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; ¹⁸and may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high and how deep His love really is; ¹⁹and may you experience the love of Christ, though it is so...though it is so great you will never fully understand it. And then you will be filled with the fullness of life and the power that comes from God. ²⁰Now glory be to God, by His mighty power at work within us He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we could ever dare to ask or hope. ²¹May He be given glory in the church and in Christ Jesus forever and ever through endless ages.

And all the church says, "Amen." Praying that we may know God, praying that we may love God, praying that we may know and love God and express that in our world. The impact of this part of prayer is what impacts our witness and our effectiveness with the gospel of Christ.

There's a final part of the prayer and I'm going to wrap up, beginning in verse 24:

²⁴*"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love which...with which you have loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

And when Jesus had spoken these words He went out with His disciples over the Brook Kidron where there was a garden, which He and the disciples entered. What was the close of the prayer? Well, I believe that He...

PRAYED THAT WE WOULD HAVE A HEART FILLED WITH THE HOPE OF HEAVEN, that we would live with a sense of hope and of wonder, that one day we would be with the Lord. Not just living for the things of this earth and the things of this life, but the things that will be eternal, that place called heaven, that place that He has prepared for us. Jesus prayed that we would always live with a hope to be with Him, where He is, in the place where His glory will be seen and will be known.

I know many of you have been watching and keeping up with American Idol, many people are at home tonight trying to see how they're gonna keep hope alive for somebody that they're interested in. But you know how many times do we put hope in things in this world that only disappoint? But I want you to know that the hope that we have in Jesus will never, never, never disappoint. It will never vanish away and we will stand one day in the presence of Jesus who is the righteous judge, but we will be welcomed home into the place that He has prepared for us into the glories of heaven, because this is a part of His promise and of His provision for us. What a

hope we have in Christ and how precious it is that Jesus in the close of the prayer, prayed, one that it was His desire that we would be with Him, but also that He prayed for the Father that we would share in His glory. Jesus has prayed for you. He's prayed for you and we can pray for one another that the glory of God may be seen in our lives above all other things. We pray for protection and perseverance through the hardships of life. We learn to pray to know the truth and to live the truth in life and we pray for intimacy with God and unity with other believers and we pray for one another that our hearts would be filled with the hope of heaven because there is still more to come. So much more to come in Jesus! I pray tonight that you have that hope. Jesus has prayed for you and, of course not only did He pray for you, but He walked into the garden, He went on to the cross and what He prayed for you, He paid for you. He paid through His death on the cross, through the shedding of His blood, through His suffering, through His burial and ultimately, triumphantly through His resurrection that this prayer would be answered and that God would be glorified and that you would share in a hope that would never perish and never fade away. Living the Christian life is hard, but Jesus has prayed and given us the assurance of victory. In this world you're gonna have trib...have tribulation, but be of good cheer, friend He has overcome the world!