

John 17: Christ, our perfect high priest and living intercessor

“...Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.” ~ Luke 5:15

- * Think back to a time in your life when you have experienced the gift of someone praying for you – out loud, in your hearing. What value is there in hearing/knowing that someone is praying for you?

“...’Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.’” ~ John 11:41b,42

- * Brief review of John 17 and where we were last week...
- * What did we learn about Jesus, his heart, and his intentions as he prayed for himself and the disciples? What themes emerged? (*John 17:1-19*)
 - o Glory – shared with the Father and at play even with the disciples, veiled while on earth, an ultimate objective (in an unselfish way)
 - o Eternity/eternal nature of God
 - o Restoration of Jesus/completion of work
 - o The disciples are the Father’s/given to Jesus – they are a gift
 - o They have grown in understanding/Jesus glorified in them
 - o Jesus is leaving, they are staying
 - o Jesus asks for them to be kept from the evil one/desires they know full measure of joy/wants them to be sanctified through truth (God’s word is truth)/prays for unity (they would be one as he and the Father are one)
 - o He specifically asks that they NOT be taken out of the world – rather, they are sent in mission out into the world
 - o Jesus is concerned about the disciples’ protection and peace (he prays in their presence intentionally)
 - o We have seen the fruit of Jesus prayers in many ways – Jesus was glorified (raised and sitting at the right hand of the Father), the disciples were faithful in mission (we wouldn’t know of Jesus if they weren’t)
- * Other observations as we re-enter the passage?

Small group study in John 17:20- (*complete the questions in the chart*)

* **Unity: with whom and why?**

- o Apostles (*message*)

- o With Jesus/God the Father (*essence*) (*John 14:9; 2 Peter 1:3,4*)

*Analogy of a shepherd with his sheep – as he calls them to himself,
 they cannot help but come closer to one another.*

* **Jesus our High Priest: What gets lost in the cultural gap?** (*Hebrews – esp. ch. 4, 5, 7, 10*)

Levitical High Priesthood	Christ's High Priesthood
Imperfect –they sinned Temporary – repeated sacrifice needed Temporary – the priests died	Perfect – no need to atone for personal sin Permanent – one sacrifice once and for all Permanent – Jesus lives forever
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to intercede on behalf of the people • Represented the people to God and offered sacrifices on their behalf • Fear and timidity – God's holiness is serious business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, but in Christ, this is an ongoing ministry – <i>Heb 7:24,25; Romans 8:26,27</i> • Yes, but in Christ, there is one mediator btwn God and man (Jesus) – <i>1 Tim 2:5</i> – and Christ himself was the sacrifice – <i>Heb 7:27</i> • Yes, but in Christ, we can approach the throne of grace with confidence through the blood of Jesus – <i>Heb 4:16, Heb 10:19-23</i>

* We know Jesus intercedes for others in his prayers while on earth (*Peter in Lk. 22:31,32; Jn. 17*)

* We know this ministry of intercession continues even after he has been glorified:

"...because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens." ~ Hebrew 7:24-26

"Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." ~ Hebrews 4:14-16
