

**John 17: Jesus, our living intercessor**

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

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- \* 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?

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*“...’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*

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- \* Revisiting the upper room discourse – Jesus prays for with his disciples before his betrayal and death.
- \* For whom does Jesus pray?
  - o Himself (John 17:1-5)
  - o His disciples (John 17:5-19)
  - o Those who will believe in Jesus through the disciples’ message (YOU, if you believe!) (vs. 20-26)
- \* What does Jesus’ prayer for himself reveal?
  - o He is interested in glory – his own and His Father’s (intertwined, as they are one)
  - o Remember the significant visual/positional glory that Jesus put aside when he came to earth (Phil 2:5-11)
  - o As his earthly work is completed, he is asking to return to the Father and the fullness of glory
  - o We also see the eternal nature of God/Jesus
- \* The majority of Jesus’ prayer, however, focuses on others (disciples/us). Use the chart to fill in what we learn of Jesus’ heart for others.

	What truths does Jesus recount to the Father in prayer?	For what is Jesus asking/NOT asking?	In what general ways have we seen Jesus’ prayers answered? Are we still waiting on some?
John 17:6-19 Jesus prays for the disciples			
John 17:20-26 Jesus prays for all who will believe			

- \* How might hearing Jesus' prayer over them have impacted the disciples?

We know of other places in scripture where it is clear Jesus prays for a specific purpose/purpose (raising of Lazarus John 11, prayer for Peter in Luke 22:31-21). We also know that Jesus continues to intercede for us after his resurrection and ascension (Romans 8:26,27 and Hebrews 7:24,25). This is an ongoing ministry of Jesus. While we don't know fully how he intercedes, at minimum, his intercession would be in line with his recorded intercession here in John 17.

- \* How would remembering Jesus' petitions on behalf of his disciples and all believers be an encouragement to us in our daily lives? Take the time to think through each aspect of his prayer ...
  - o That they may have the full measure of his joy (this flows out of the full knowledge of him)
  - o For protection from the evil one
  - o For their sanctification (made holy and/or set apart for a purpose -- likely here) by God's word (truth)
  - o That we would go forward with his mission
  - o That we would have unity with other believers and with the Godhead
  - o That we would see his glory (and be with him where he is -- a reflection of God's relational love for us)
  - o That the love of the Father for Jesus might be in us
  - o Other?
- \* How would remembering one or more of these ongoing prayers of Jesus strengthen you and give you hope? How could it shape your view of your daily needs and prayer requests? Particularly when we are away from one another over the coming months, be encouraged that Jesus is living to intercede for us!

Application:

- \* How can you bear witness to the answered prayers of Jesus over the last year at MTB and/or at other times in your own history?
- \* Which aspects of Jesus' prayer for us are areas where you are particularly aware of your need of him?
- \* What are some ways we can remember Jesus' faithful intercession for us in the coming months?

*"... 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." ~ Hebrews 7:24-26*

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1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

6 “I have revealed you<sup>[a]</sup> to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. 9 I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. 11 I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of<sup>[b]</sup> your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by<sup>[c]</sup> that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. 14 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. 15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. 17 Sanctify them by<sup>[d]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

24 “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you<sup>[e]</sup> known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”

Footnotes:

John 17:6 Greek your name

John 17:11 Or Father, keep them faithful to

John 17:12 Or kept them faithful to

John 17:17 Or them to live in accordance with

John 17:26 Greek your name

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