Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer

John 17:1-19

Introduction:

Jesus’ life was a life of prayer.

* While being baptized (L 3:21).
* Spent the night in prayer. Mk 1:35
* Prayed all night before selecting the disciples.L.6:2
* On the mount of Transfiguration He prayed. L.9:29
* On the cross, as He was dying. L. 23-46

His words are rarely given, but in John 17 we are read His exact words. The disciples heard these words and were encouraged that they had a mediator between them and God.— One who can put one hand on the Father and one hand on man and mediate (referee) between them.

I. He Prays for Himself – 17:1-5

A. His Supreme Goals – 17:1-4

1. The Person of the Father – 17:1

“Jesus 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,”

Jesus has been teaching (chapters 13-16) Now it is time for prayer. “Jesus lifted His eyes” looking to His Father. The disciples now know that He is praying.

His prayer is to His Father Whom He has introduced to the Jews and, through them, to mankind. He has been speaking to them about the Father. Now He is speaking to the Father about them.

“the hour” - This is the seventh and last time Jesus has spoken about this “hour.” It is the culmination of His purpose for coming to the earth: to glorify the Father and to bestow eternal life upon all whom the Father had given Him.

2. The Power of the Father – 17:2

a. Everlasting Lordship – 17:2a

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“as You have given Him authority over all flesh,”

The Son created all flesh and gave it to man to rule over it. Satan stole it from Adam. At the cross, Jesus will take it back and, as man, will rule over the entire creation in the Millennium and in eternity. But He does not do it alone. It is a part of this prayer. In Psalm 2:8 we read: “Ask of Me, and I will give *You* the nations *for* Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.”

b. Everlasting Life – 17:2b-3

1). Entrance into Eternal Life – 17:2b

“that He ﻿﻿should give eternal life to as many ﻿﻿as You have given Him.”

2). Experience of Eternal Life – 17:3

“And ﻿﻿this is eternal life, that they may know You, ﻿﻿the only true God, and Jesus Christ ﻿﻿whom You have sent.”

Question: Is Jesus speaking of knowing God - Positionally or Experientially

The word “know” γινώσκωσιν - γινώσκω- means “to know intimately”

Example: “And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son…” (Gen. 4:25)

Jesus is saying that it is possible for the disciples (and all believers) to know God in their experience. Whether they do or not depends on whether they “abide in Christ” (1 John 2:3-11)

3. The Purposes of the Father – 17:4

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“I have glorified You on the earth. ﻿﻿I have finished the work ﻿﻿which You have given Me to do.”

Glorify the Father on earth. Finished the work you gave Me to do. (as good as done)

4. The Plea of the Son – 17:5

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“And now, O Father, glorify Me together ﻿﻿with Yourself, with the glory ﻿﻿which I had with You before the world was.”

Jesus is asking for a reversal of Philippians 2:5-8. There, He emptied Himself of the use of His Omni-attributes,

* e did not act like GodhHHe hhHe did not act like God: He was totally dependent upon the Father.
* He did not look like God: He was 100% human, (though 100% God as well.

It is the glory of God that Jesus requests. A few men on earth saw that glory: Saul of Tarsus fell to the ground and was blinded. (Acts 9). John “fell at His feet as dead” (Rev.1:17)

II. He Prays for the Eleven – 17:6-19

A. The Basis for the Requests – 17:6-10

1. I have Revealed Your Name to them – 17:6

a. You Gave them to Me

“the men ﻿﻿whom You have given Me out of the world. ﻿﻿They were Yours, You gave them to Me,”

In what way did they belong to the Father? These are the ones “chosen in Him before the foundation of the world” (Eph. 1:4)

b. I Gave them your Word

“I have ﻿﻿revealed Your name {to them}

c. They have Kept it.

“and they have kept Your word.”

2. I Told them “all things” – 17:7

“Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You.”

a. You Gave them to Me

“which You have given Me”

b. I made it Known to them (Understood)

c. Now they Know

“Now they have known that all things are from You.”

3. They Know that I Came Forth from You – 17:8

“For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me”

a. You Gave Me your Words

“words ﻿﻿which You have given Me”

b. I Gave them those Words

“For I have given to them the words”

c. They Received those Words

“they have received them”

The Result: “They believe that You sent Me.”

B. The Burden of the Requests – 17:9-10

The Subjects -

a. Not the Unbelievers, i.e. “the world” – 17:9a

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“I do not pray for the world.”

The Father so loved the world that He Gave His Son. The Son died for the whole world. He told His disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest that He would send laborers into the harvest.

God loves the world, but this prayer is for the believers. Those who are in the world can get in on the prayer simply by believing that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.” (John 20:31)

b. For Believers – 17:9b-10

“I pray for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ﻿And all Mine are Yours, and ﻿﻿Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.”

These believers are God’s children by creation and election. All who belong to the Father also belong to the Son, and vice/versa.

C. Request for Protection – 17:11-16

1. Jesus No Longer in the World – 17:11a

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“Now I am no longer in the world,”

Jesus is speaking of His death, burial, resurrection and ascension in the past tense. It is that certain! (See Romans 8:29-30)

2. The Disciples Still in the World.

“but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, ﻿﻿keep ﻿﻿through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one ﻿﻿as We [*are one.*]”

Being in the world, they need protection from the evil one and all who follow him.

3. Jesus Protected them while He was with them – 17:12

“While I was with them ﻿﻿in the world, ﻿﻿I kept them in ﻿﻿Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and ﻿﻿none of them is ﻿﻿lost ﻿﻿except the son of ﻿﻿perdition, ﻿﻿that the Scripture might be fulfilled.”

Jesus said, “I am the Good shepherd” and “The Good Shepherd gives His life for the Sheep” We don’t know how many times He stood between His disciples and danger. They did not know either; just as we don’t know most of the times He has protected us. One thing we do know is He that watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps. (Psalm 121:3)

D. Request for Sanctification – 17:17-19

1. They (we) are Set Apart – 17:17

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﻿﻿“Sanctify ﻿﻿them by Your truth. ﻿﻿Your word is truth.”

Sanctify means to set apart for special use. A believer is to be distinct from the world’s sin, its values, and its goals. It is achieved by the Word of Truth.

* Sin will keep me from this book.
* This book will keep me from sin.

“Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm. 119:11)

2. They (we) are Sent – 17:18-19

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“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

Jesus is the model for every believer,

* He was sent into the world to make the Father known.
* We are sent into the world to make Jesus (and ultimately the Father) known. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

“And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.”

* He sanctified (set apart) Himself to do the Father’s will, his death, burial, resurrection and ascension so that his followers could be sanctified.