

**CHRIST'S PRACTICE OF PRAYER**  
**(Part Three – The Content of Christ's Prayers – cont'd)**

**TEXT:** John 17:1-5,9,20-22

**INTRODUCTION:** It was the sight of Jesus' praying that prompted His disciples to beg Him, "*Lord, teach us to pray...*" (Luke 11:1). We too should desire to emulate the prayer life of our Savior and High Priest. We should mark both the **manner** and the **matter** of Christ's praying.

We noted that the prayers of Jesus included the giving of thanks and the seeking of counsel. But the heart of the content of Christ's prayers was His making of **intercession**. This is His unceasing occupation at the right hand of the Father. "*He ever liveth to make intercession for them*" (Heb. 7:25). He prayed His great high priestly prayer in John 17 "*for their sakes.*"

**OUTLINE:** Christ's prayers meant basically four things (continued):

**II. (The CONTENT of Christ's Prayers)**

**A. The giving of thanks**

1. When the Seventy returned from their mission (Lk. 10:21)
2. At the grave of Lazarus (Jn. 11:42, 43)
3. Before feeding the multitudes miraculously (Jn. 6:11; Matt. 15:36)
4. At the Last Supper (Matt. 26:27)

**B. The seeking of counsel**

1. Before choosing the Twelve (Lk. 6:12ff)
2. A practice repeated by the Eleven (Acts 1:24,25)

**C. The making of intercession**

1. For **Himself** (vv. 1-5)
  - a. He had perfectly glorified the Father on earth (v. 4a).
  - b. He would glorify Him still in Heaven (v. 1b).
2. For the **eleven** (vv. 6-19)
  - a. "Keep them" (vv. 11-16)
  - b. "Sanctify them" (vv. 17-19).
3. For the whole **Church** (vv. 20-24)

**CONCLUSION:** Christ's practice in praying for the eleven is the **pattern** for His praying for us. If Jesus didn't lose any of the eleven – even though they were sorely tested, tortured, and martyred because they would not recant their faith in Christ – surely He can keep us too! Do we have the same **desire** as the eleven – "*Lord, teach us to pray*"? Then shall we not emulate the example of our great High Priest and intercede as He did – and does?