

Love Story
July 23, 2017
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Good morning, Lighthouse, are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

As we begin this morning, I want to set the stage for what we are about to learn from the Scriptures.

Our first scene opens in The Upper Room as that final Passover with Jesus' disciples draws to a close.

John 13:1-2

1 Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him;

We know what happened immediately following that final Passover with the Lord:

Judas leaves the meeting to go and sell out the Lord to the Chief Priests for 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus delivers several final teachings to the remainder of the disciples:

Jesus washes the disciple's feet;

He commands them to love one another;

He tells Peter that he is going to deny him three times;

He teaches them about the mansions prepared for them in His Father's house;

He tells them about the Comforter that is to come;

He teaches them about the vine and the branches;

He tells them about the suffering they will face;

He tells them that it is time for Him to depart and that they all will scatter and leave Him to face His death alone:

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

In Chapter 17, John records the prayer of Jesus just before they go out to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus will now be betrayed, arrested, tried, tortured all night and into the next day, then crucified for our sins.

We know that because Jesus is God in the flesh, He was well aware of all things that were about to befall Him.

John 18:4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

We know the content of Jesus' prayer as He lay prostrate before His Heavenly Father in the Garden being strengthened by the Angels only moments before He would be arrested.

Matthew 26:38-39

38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

An hour or so earlier, before they came to the garden, Jesus was in prayer then, too.

What did He pray? 'Oh Holy Father, help me through the agony I am facing?'

'Oh God, please get me out of this somehow?'

'Oh Father, ease my pain, oh, Lord?'

What was on His mind as He prepared Himself to face the greatest agony anyone would ever face?

What would you be praying if you were facing torture and certain execution?

We are going to read what is truly in Scripture "The Lord's Prayer".

It's a bit long to read in a sermon, but I believe we need to know the whole burden that was on Jesus' heart as He faced death on our behalf.

John 17:1-26

1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

7 Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

8 For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

13 And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Facing all the agony he was, what did Jesus pray for?

Jesus prayed for you! Not just the disciples who were present, you!

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

When people are facing dire circumstances, serious illnesses, life threatening conditions; they often seek prayer from their pastor, their elders or others who they suppose would be surely heard by the Lord when they pray.

The truth is that any of God's children who is in fellowship with the Lord has the same access to God in prayer that any other believer has.

But if there was one you could have in prayer for you above all others, would it not be Jesus Himself?

Catholics are often taught to pray to Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, reasoning that if His mother asks something of Jesus, surely, He would not turn her down.

That is foolish on many levels:

First of all, Mary is not a virgin anymore, she had several children after Jesus, all born the same way you were. It's right there in the Bible. (Read Matthew 1:25)

Secondly, Mary, who is a saved sinner like you and me, is enjoying her reward in heaven with Jesus and is not being forced to listen to all the garbage being asked by millions of lost people...that would hardly be heaven for her!

Most foolish of all, is they are praying to someone who can't hear them when they could get saved and have access directly to the Father through the one mediator between God and man, Jesus Himself.

It is said that you can tell what a man's priorities are by looking in his checkbook.

It is also said that you can tell what someone really cares about by the content of their prayer life.

If that be true, what we have read today ought to settle forever any doubt you've ever had about Jesus' love for you.

I. Jesus prayed that you would come to know the Lord.

A. Jesus wants you to know the Lord.

1. Do you?
2. Jesus didn't say "that they might know about thee".
3. But rather, "that they might know thee".

B. Jesus said that knowing Him is eternal life.

1. We're talking about living our eternal life in a personal relationship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.
2. We are living our eternal life now!
3. **1 John 1:3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
4. Knowing the Lord begins with learning about Him and then placing your trust in Him to save you from your sins.
5. Many say they are saved but they don't have that walking, talking, personal daily fellowship with God.
6. If you are not living your eternal life of fellowship walking daily with the Lord, what makes you think you have it?

II. Jesus prayed that you would be kept.

A. Every true believer is a keeper.

1. Remember when you met that special one in your life and you decided that he or she was a keeper?
2. Well, that's the way God feels about you.
3. God keeps every believer.
4. The only one who ever walked with Jesus who was lost was Judas; who Jesus said was a devil from the beginning; not saved at all.

5. John 6:64-71

64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, **Will ye also go away?**

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

70 Jesus answered them, **Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?**

71 He spake of Judas Iscariot *the son* of Simon: for he it was that should betray him, being one of the twelve.

6. **John 10:27-30**

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

30 I and *my* Father are one.

*B. Not just kept, but also **kept from the evil one.***

1. **John 17:15** I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

2. Satan gives us lots of trouble but he has to stop where God draws the line.

3. **1 John 5:18** We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.

III. **Jesus prayed that you would be sanctified.**

A. What is this sanctification the Lord is praying for?

1. **hagiazō** *hag-ee-ad'-zo*

From **G40**; to *make holy*, that is, (ceremonially) *purify* or *consecrate*; (mentally) to *venerate*: - hallow, be holy, sanctify.

2. Sanctification is a process.

3. It is that process of consecrating oneself to the purpose for which we were created; that of bringing God glory with our lives.

4. It sets us aside as a different and peculiar people.

5. It creates a clear difference between us and the rest of the world.

6. It is accomplished through the power of the Word of God.

B. The Bible describes it in many forms.

1. Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

2. We are sanctified:

3. By staying in the Word.

4. By staying under real Bible preaching and teaching of the rightly divided Word of God.

5. We are transformed more and more into what God created and intended us to be as we allow the Word of God to change us.

IV. Jesus prayed that we might be one.

A. As Jesus and the Father are one.

1. The Church is the Body of Christ and as such is that through which the work of the Lord is carried out.

2. A Church is a local Body with members who see and know each other, support the work of the Lord, love and care for each other and serve Jesus together.

B. The way in which all believers are one like Jesus and His Father is family.

1. Being a part of a Church is extremely important.

2. But you can't be a part of a Church without first becoming part of the family.

3. Ephesians 3:14-21

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

4. Real believers who know the Lord are family, we are brothers and sisters with every other Christian worldwide.

5. You can't get the world to the Church except one by one and on occasion, but the world is in contact with the family every day.

Conclusion:

We know, contrary to what you may have heard preached, that the Father was right there with His Son through it all; suffering with Him as any loving Father would; even more so because they truly are one.

Jesus prayed for us to have the same love for our brothers and sisters in the Lord that He shares with His Father.

John 17: 25-26

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare *it*: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

This amazing love is what tells the world who we really are.

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

The things Jesus prayed for are the things it takes for you to enjoy a life of peace, joy and love; both loving and being loved.

Don't be so foolish as to allow the flesh to resist the changes Jesus prayed for on our behalf only hours before He died on the cross for your sins, was buried and then rose again three days and three nights later.