



## THE GOSPEL OF JOHN: LESSON 18 "COME AND SEE"

This week we have the awesome privilege of studying the greatest recorded prayer in the entire Bible. We have been walking with Christ to the Garden of Gethsemane, listening in on His conversations with His disciples. Now we actually get to eavesdrop as God speaks to God! Wow! We get a glimpse of Jesus' heart and mind as He prays for Himself, His disciples, and for all future believers. Notice how unselfish His prayers are. Notice the love He has for His own. Notice that Jesus is praying for you and me. It's so exciting to be loved by God, isn't it?

This chapter closes the Upper Room Discourse, which began in the Upper Room and closes in the agony of the Garden. All through this Gospel, Jesus has been deliberately moving toward this hour; the hour of His glorification on the cross. This is a holy moment. The time has come. We are definitely standing on holy ground.

### First Day

1. Read John 17:1-26. This chapter can be broken into three sections. Observe and list the facts in each, making note of the key words and phrases. Give each section a title that reflects its main point.

### **Section 1: Verses 1-5**

### **Section 2: Verses 6-19**

**Section 3: Verses 20-26**

2. What seems to be the main theme of this chapter?
3. How many times is the word "world" used in this chapter?  
How does that relate to John 16:33?
4. How many times is the word or form of the word "glory" used?  
What about the word "give"?
5. What new thoughts, ideas, or truths did you learn upon first reading this chapter?
6. How does this prayer encourage you?
7. How does it challenge you?

That's it for now. May the truth of God's abundant love for you be reinforced in a mighty way as you study John 17.

**Memory Verse of the Week:** "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." John 17:3

### Second Day

**Work on your memory verse. Do you know the one and only true God?**

1. Read John 17:1-5. What "hour" is Jesus referring to?
2. In verse 1, Jesus prays that He would be glorified. Do you think He was praying selfishly? Why or why not?
3. Explain how the Father was glorified by His Son.

Jesus was not seeking honor for Himself in His prayers, because in His own glorification through death, resurrection, and ascension, He was seeking only to glorify the Father. Through His obedience, Jesus brought glory to the Father and manifested Him to the world.

4. What gift did God the Father give the Son, according to verse 2?
5. What gift does Jesus have the power to give?

6. Eternal life means much more than a life that will go on forever. What is Jesus' definition of eternal life in verse 3?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What "work" was Jesus referring to in verse 4? (The word "finished" means "perfected as well as accomplished.") How was this the "purpose of the Father"?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. After Jesus spoke about His work on earth, He refers to the Heavenly realm. What did Jesus ask the Father for in verse 5?

I read a paragraph by Ray Stedman that I found quite moving. He said, "What does Jesus mean by 'glory'? To glory means to reveal hidden riches. When the sun appears from behind the clouds, the gloom lifts from the entire landscape, and a dazzling radiance illuminates everything in sight. That is the effect that is suggested by this word 'glory.' When Jesus was sacrificed on the cross, the hidden riches and radiance of God's love and truth became visible to the world. John began his Gospel by saying 'The Word became flesh and lived for awhile among us. We have seen His glory.' What was His glory like? It was full of 'grace and truth.' Though once they were hidden, all of God's inner qualities of grace and truth became visible when Jesus came. In John 17, Jesus prays that, through the cross, something that has been hidden from the world will now be manifested."

9. How does the cross reveal "both His Lordship and His Saviorhood"?

Eternal life only comes through knowing God through the knowledge of His Son. You can't believe in the Father if you don't receive the Son. It's not knowing "about" God but knowing God Himself. A. M. Hunter, in his book The Cambridge Bible Commentary, said, "John is not speaking of a double knowledge here, as though one began with the knowledge of the true God and then went on to gain knowledge of Christ. It is one knowledge -- one fellowship with Him -- that which comes through Christ." God's work of salvation for lost man was finished at the cross.

10. What does all this mean to you and I? How do the truths in these verses affect our life?
11. Jesus' whole life glorified His Father. What about your life? Are you doing the work He's called you to do or are you sitting on the sidelines, watching the days pass by? Do the things you do reflect God's nature and power, manifesting His character to those around you?

Spend some time reflecting on these verses, again, realizing that God was speaking to God. Ask the Lord to work in your life, enabling and empowering you to fulfill God's call on your life. Obedience is the key word. Jesus was obedient, going all the way to the cross (Hebrews 12:1-3). May we follow in His footsteps.

### Third Day

**Spend some time on your memory verse.**

1. Read John 17:6-19. Verses 6-8 are considered "transitional," moving from His prayer for Himself to His prayer for His disciples.

In verse 6, Jesus says that He manifested the Father's name to His disciples. In this verse, Warren Wiersbe points out that Jesus took the Father's sacred name, I AM, given in the Old Testament (Exodus 3:11-14), and made it meaningful to His disciples. "I am the Bread of Life," "I am the Light of the world," "I am the Good Shepherd." He says, "In other words, Jesus revealed the Father's gracious name by showing His disciples that He was everything they needed, and manifested the nature of God."

The phrase "they have kept Thy Word" in verse 6 is not a reference primarily to their obedience to individual commands or teachings, but to their readiness to accept Him as their Savior.

2. According to verses 7-8, how had the disciple's faith progressed?
  
3. In verse 9, Jesus says that He's not praying for the world. Does He hate the world? Why did He say this?

We can hear Jesus' love and concern for His disciples in His words. He spent three years with them and loves them dearly. He knows He's leaving them behind and now He will be glorified in them (vs 10). He commends them to the Father.

4. How will Jesus be glorified in the lives of the disciples after He's gone?
  
5. What does Jesus specifically pray for in verses 11-12 for His disciples?

This section refers to the security of the believer. God "keeps" those who are His own. We belong to Him so He watches over us, and Jesus even prays for us. He will never leave us or forsake us. We are secure because of who God is; because of His nature, not on our own character. By preserving His children, the disciples would be one, speaking of unity. During His ministry here on earth, Jesus "kept" all those who were His, standing between them and the world. There was one, though, who was lost.

6. Who is the "son of perdition" that was lost in verse 12? Does this suggest that a believer can lose their salvation? Are we in danger of being "lost" by Jesus?

The word the Lord used for "lost" is "apollumi," which is a word used of the doom of a sinner, and one of the strongest words in the Greek language for stating final and hopeless destruction. The word "perdition" is from the same root as the word "lost." The Wycliff Bible Commentary states, "Jesus was saying that the loss was not a reflection of His keeping power as the shepherd of the flock. Rather, Judas had never really belonged to Him except in a nominal, external sense. The idea of perdition is the exact opposite of preservation." Judas was never one of Christ's own, or given to Him by the Father. He is not an example of a believer that lost his salvation, but of a person who pretended to be a believer, but was exposed in the true light of Christ. Jesus keeps His own. A. M. Hunter said, "The man who complained about waste (Mark 14:4, John 12:4) was the one 'waste product' of Christ's ministry."

7. You belong to Him, and He is keeping you. What thoughts or emotions does that truth stir in your heart?

8. Although Jesus keeps you, what is your responsibility?

In verse 13, Jesus prays that His disciples would have the same joy that He had. I'm sure they were still shook up from Judas' departure, and unsure of what was lying ahead. True faith in Christ brings real joy, despite the circumstances we find ourselves in. Jesus knew that joy and wanted His disciples to experience it.

9. Once we are "in Christ," we are no longer of this world (vs 16). What does that mean? How do we keep the "world" out of us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. According to verse 14, what other gift have we been given? How are you appropriating this gift?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. The word "keep" in verse 15 can be translated "guard." How does God guard us from evil? How can we guard ourselves?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What safeguards have you placed around yourself to guard against the evil of the world, and of the evil one?

We'll finish looking at this section tomorrow. For now, thank the Lord for the security you have in Him. Ask Him to show you ways that you can guard yourself from evil.



## Fourth Day

### What's your memory verse?

1. Read John 17:6-19 again. What does Jesus pray for His disciples in verses 17-19?

The word "sanctify" means to "set apart for a holy purpose." Jesus wanted them to be set apart by the truth. This can mean equipped, or made fit, for divine service. It means to be set apart for a specific purpose and to use it for the specific, intended purpose.

2. Explain verse 19 in your own words. How did Jesus sanctify Himself? How did that sanctify them?

We cannot sanctify ourselves or make ourselves worthy. We must be consecrated by God in Christ, by sharing in the grace and truth of the cross. The Word of God sanctifies us, empowering us to live holy lives. Although we can't "make" ourselves worthy, we can "walk worthy of our calling" (Ephesians 4:1-2) by living in obedience to His Word.

3. Are you being used for your "intended purpose"? Are you allowing Him to use you for His glory?

Think about this quote ... "When we abuse our bodies with drugs or overeating, or when we fill our minds with impure entertainment, or when we misuse our sexuality, or when we vent to rage or filthy language, or when we take advantage of other people with unscrupulous business practices -- then we are not putting ourselves to the use that God intended. We are not being

sanctified. But when we determine to commit ourselves -- body, mind, and soul -- to God's service, then that is sanctification. In this passage, our Lord prays that these eleven men will be personally, willingly, committed to the work of being used by God." (Ray Stedman, God's Loving Word)

4. Write your thoughts on the above quote. Are you personally and willingly committed to the work of being used by God? (Any changes need to be made?)
  
5. How was Jesus "sending them into the world"? Read Matthew 28:18-20.
  
6. Where has Jesus "sent" you? Where are you right now? He sent you there. Are you walking worthy, wherever you are, and whatever you're doing?
  
7. Read John 17:20-26. Who is Jesus now praying for? For what does He ask?
  
8. How does the relationship between the Father and the Son show ideal unity? How would this unity between believers be a testimony to the world?

Jesus is now praying for the millions of believers down through the ages. The Father gave the words to His Son (John 17:8), and the Son gave them to His disciples, who, in turn, have passed them on to us, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21). His desire

is that we all may be one, unified in Christ. The cement of this bond is love, the same love that the Father has for the Son. When we love one another, unity is produced, and that love and unity will be a testimony to the world.

9. Are any of your relationships suffering because of a lack of love or unity? How can they be fixed? Are you waiting for the other party to humble themselves and come to you, or will you be the one to follow the example of Christ?

See you tomorrow, ladies. Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Think about those words. Are you experiencing "good and pleasant" today?

### Fifth Day

**Write out your verse from memory.**

1. Read John 17:20-26 again. According to verse 24, what is Jesus' desire for His disciples and the future believers?

We know that our desire is to be with Jesus forever. Have you ever thought about the fact that it's Jesus' desire to be with us? John Phillips said this: "Jesus wants us to be where He is. Heaven would be incomplete for us without Him. Of that we are quite sure. It is not the house that makes the home. It is the loved ones we find there. But the opposite is equally true, and it is amazing that it should be so. Heaven is incomplete for Him without us."

2. Are you excited to spend your "forever" with Jesus? What do you know about Heaven? Find some verses about Heaven to share with the group. Which one is the most comforting and exciting for you today?

Jesus also desires that His disciples see the glory of His deity (vs 24b), the glory He possessed before time began; to see Him as He is and gaze into the "brightness of His glory" (Hebrews 1:3).

In our last two verses, Jesus sums up His ministry on earth, declaring again the importance of knowing God and His great love, and sharing it with the world. How important it is to share the Good News of the Gospel to a lost and dying world.

John Phillips rewrites Jesus' closing in his own words: "Now, Father, these people of Ours must love like that. My love is to be their love. But I know these people. They mean well, but they don't have what it takes. So, I'll be in them, and then My love will be their love."

3. Is the love of Christ "in" you? How does it get there?
  
4. As we close our lesson, briefly recap some of the main points that Jesus emphasizes in His prayer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How does this chapter encourage or challenge you as a:
  - a. Wife
  - b. Mom
  - c. Christian woman

