

# Savior's Prayer

John 17:20-26

## Introduction

- About 5-6 weeks ago I was going through this passage in my quiet time, and it struck me – that...Jesus [in this passage] was praying for me
- This may seem like an odd Christmas passage, but it's significant in that Jesus is praying for **US**
  - We needed a mediator [that's what the priest was]
  - Not just those disciples
  - 2000 years ago – **US**
  - You, me – hey, those guys that'll be in La Crescent
  - Father I want you to make them one – for My glory
- Three things this morning
  - Jesus priestly role – to intercede
  - His desire for unity and love in His church
  - His desire to be made known and worshipped

## Message

- His priestly role = to intercede for us
  - Let's start by going back to:
    - (v:9) not praying for the world – but His brothers and sisters
      - How meaningful is this?
      - He is not some distant savior
      - How awesome is it to know your Savior was, is, and always will be praying for you?
      - Because not only was He praying 2000 years ago
    - Jesus' intercession is now
      - (Romans 8:34 b-c) "*Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.*"<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Unless noted, all quotes are from: *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2001). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

- **AND**, not only is He praying for us now...
- Jesus' intercession is forever
  - (Hebrews 7:24-25) "*but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever.* <sup>25</sup> *Consequently, He is able to save to the **uttermost** those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*"
  - We may conclude, then, that both Paul and the author of Hebrews are saying that Jesus continually lives in the presence of God to make specific requests and to bring specific petitions before God on our behalf.<sup>2</sup>
  - Forever, uttermost, always...
- But wait...there's more!
- Even what we don't know, Jesus intercedes for
  - (Romans 8:26) "*Likewise the Spirit [of Christ] helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*"
- I think this happens two ways:
  - When your heart is heavy, and you don't know what to ask, Jesus does
  - Just come
  - Even paneling – Menards – Liz
- And finally...
  - Because we don't know how to pray much of the time – Jesus is mediating our prayers as acceptable to the Father
  - When I'm whiney
- His constant prayer for us for unity and love
  - What Jesus wants most for His Church is unity and love
  - Display of the Trinity
    - (v:22)

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<sup>2</sup> Grudem, W. A. (2004). *Systematic theology: an introduction to biblical doctrine* (p. 627). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House.

- “*The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one*”
- Oneness
  - Similarly [as the Trinity is One], the believers, still distinct [individuals], are to be one in purpose, in love, in action undertaken with and for one another, in joint submission to the revelation [Word we’ve] received.<sup>3</sup>
  - (1 Corinth 12:14, 26) “*For the body does not consist of one member but of many... If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.*”
  - And...
  - The unity for which Jesus is praying is not merely outward. He guards against this very common misinterpretation. He asks that the oneness of all believers resemble that which exists eternally between the Father and the Son. In both cases the unity is [also] of a definitely *spiritual* nature.<sup>4</sup>
  - I have deep meaningful relationships with people I have nothing in common with
    - There is no earthly reason Steve T. and I should be friends
    - Hobbies
    - Work experience
    - Small groups sometime next year
    - If oneness in the body is so important to God, then...
  - How grievous do you think is it for God to see His church in disunity?
    - How grievous to see
    - Marriages
    - Parent-child relationships
    - Families

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<sup>3</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 568). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

<sup>4</sup> Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). *Exposition of the Gospel According to John* (Vol. 2, p. 364). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

- This outward display of the gospel is only possible through one truth:
  - The cross of Christ [God's honor], has to mean more to me than my honor **[x2]** - Sonship
  - That God would reclaim, reconcile, adopt and delight in blameworthy sinners **HAS** to make a difference.
  - If you're here today, and you've never taken time to think through the message of salvation, here's a nutshell:
    - All dead in sin
    - Hostile enemies of God, under His wrath
    - Christ, willingly, in love sacrificed Himself to pay for sin
    - So we could be restored, , reconciled, adopted and delighted in by the God of the universe
    - If you've never crossed this line of faith to be born again, after the service we'll have some people up front...
  - The outward working and display of is so important as
- It is Jesus desire to be made known, and to be worshipped
  - Jesus' wants His fame spread to the ends of the earth
    - That's how we believed
    - Someone was spreading His fame
  - We believe because of their word (v:20)
    - Implies evangelism
    - Missions
      - Cline's video
      - They have a passion for spreading God's fame
      - So that He is worshipped
    - A spreading of the gospel that happens because
      - I have a Jesus Who is so glorious I need not fear people
      - About whom I can't stay silent
    - (v:23) *"I in them and You in me, that they may become perfectly one, **so** that the **world may know** that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me."*
      - So...the world may know
  - Remember (v:22) we are given His glory

- As a confirmation of the truth of the cross
- Lived out in a way that validates the cross
- That's one reason, but also it's for our joy
- (v:24) *“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”*
  - Jesus' glory, and our joy are inseparably linked.
  - There is no real joy apart from Jesus, it's only counterfeit joy
  - So a question would be, “Do you delight in making much of God, or God making much of you?”

## **Conclusion**

- How does this help **me** to pray?
  - With confidence – God wants to hear me
  - With boldness – In Christ I have the right to be heard
  - With security – God will not dismiss me
  - (Hebrews 4:16) *“Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace [the throne of grace!], that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*
  - We're always in need...
  - If you come for bread, you won't get a stone
  - Jesus has seen to it
- Jesus isn't looking for your performance
  - He is your performance
  - (Isaiah 55:1) *“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”*
  - It costs you nothing to come to your Father in prayer
  - I believe it costs you much not to
- Might this change how I pray?
  - Desire to grow in biblical prayer – think a little deeper
    - Don't ask for what I have
    - Don't ask for what God has said He won't do

- World peace
  - God will save everyone
  - Ask thinking about what would bring glory to God
  - And do it confidently, boldly, and with all the security in the universe
- Close – Valley of Vision
  - O Lord God, Who inhabits eternity,

The heavens declare Your glory,  
 The earth Your riches,  
 The universe is Your temple;  
 Your presence fills the vastness  
 Yet it pleased You to create life,  
 and communicate happiness;  
 You have made us what we are,  
 and have given us what we have;  
 In You we live and move and have our being;  
 Your loving care has determined the structure of our lives  
 and wisely governs our affairs.

We thank You for Your riches to us in Jesus,  
 for the unclouded revelation of Him in Your Word,  
 where we behold His person, character, grace, glory  
 humiliation, sufferings, death and resurrection;  
 Please help us to feel our need of His continual saving,  
 and cry with Job, 'we are vile',  
 with Peter, 'we perish',  
 with the tax collector, 'Be merciful to us, we're sinners'.

O Subdue in us the love of sin,  
 Let us know the need of renovation  
 as well as forgiveness,  
 in order that we may serve and enjoy You forever.

We come to You, Father, in the all-prevailing name of Jesus,  
 with nothing of our own to offer,  
 no works, no worthiness, no promises.

We are often straying,  
 often knowingly opposing Your authority,

often abusing Your goodness;  
Much of our guilt arises from the spiritual advantages that we have,  
how little we value them,  
and our failure to use them to our advantage,  
But we are not careless of Your favor or regardless of Your glory;  
Will you impress us deeply, with a sense of Your  
forever presence and power, that You're near to us in our paths,  
our ways, our lying down, and our end.  
Father, would You accomplish this in our lives; for Your immense,  
eternal glory, and our immense eternal joy?  
In Jesus' name,  
Amen