



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study : 059 Jesus' Last Supper Prayer

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Read John 17

Introduction: John, Chapter 17 records the *true* "Lord's Prayer" (the one traditionally so called was given for disciples to pray). In this prayer recorded in John 17, spoken on the eve of His crucifixion, Jesus prays for Himself, the disciples gathered with Him at the Last Supper, and for all disciples, including you and me. This Study is to identify what Jesus prayed for on this occasion. Make three lists of those requests, one for Jesus' prayers for Himself (verses 1-8), one for the prayers for the eleven disciples (verses 9-16) and one for the prayers for all disciples. Then find answers to the following questions.

1. Prayers for Himself (verses 1-8).

- In what way was the prayer of verses 1, 4 & 5 granted?
- What do you know about God that relates to eternal life (verse 3. See Jn 3:16)?*
- What work did God the Father give His Son to do (verse 4. See Luke 4:18)?

2. Prayers for the 11 disciples (verses 9-19). (Although these verses appear to be only for the eleven disciples gathered at the table, the wording of verses 9, 10 and 20 suggests that wider disciples were included in these requests, with the remaining verses being an addition for disciples not present and yet to come. That is the view I have taken here.)

- To whom do disciples belong (verse 9)?
- In what ways is Jesus glorified in His disciples (verse 10)?
- What does Jesus request for disciples in verse 11?
- Who was "the son of perdition" ("one doomed to destruction" NIV) (verse 12)?
- How can disciples be living in the world but not "of the world" (verses 14-18)?
- What does Jesus mean by the truth (see v17) and how does it sanctify disciples (verse 19)?*

3. Prayers for all disciples, in Jesus' day and beyond (verses 20-26).

- What does Jesus pray for all disciples in verses 20 to 22 and for what reason?*
- What might help the world believe (verse 23 – newer translations are clearer)?
- When will disciples be best able to "behold (Jesus') glory" (verse 24)?
- What does Jesus wish to be in His disciples (verse 26)?

* You might want to consult a commentary to answer some of the questions, especially those marked with an asterisk.

To think about: Can you discern any answers to Jesus' prayer in the world, or in yourself, today? If you reckon any answer is lacking, why do you think this is?

To dig deeper: See what commentators have to say about this prayer.