

Jesus' Prayer

Lesson 17

John 17:1-5

Opener

If I went around the room right now and asked each person to recite the Lord's Prayer, I imagine that almost everybody could do that. We are all very familiar with the Lord's Prayer. However, it should be called the Model Prayer. If we really want to know how, for what, and for whom Jesus prayed we need to look at his own prayers with the Father. One of the best examples of this is in John 17. Shortly before Jesus was arrested he spent some quiet moments with God talking to him before his suffering began.

In John chapter 17, Jesus prays for many things. We will be spending the next few weeks studying the different parts of Jesus' prayer

Scripture

John 17:1-5

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

Discussion

Ask: What do most people believe eternal life is?

Life in heaven when we die will be the most likely response.

Ask: When do most people believe they will receive eternal life?

We will receive eternal life when we die.

Ask: What is eternal life according to Jesus?

According to Jesus, eternal life is knowing God and his son, Jesus who he sent to us.

Read Isaiah 59:2 and summarize what it says:

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.”

Read Romans 6:23 and summarize it:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Read Romans 3:23 and summarize it:
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Iniquity is a fancy word for sin, and sin is a fancy word for our disobedience to God. The Bible clearly states that when we sin (whether it is one or many) we become separated from God. That means that we cannot know God. The Bible also says that we have all sinned. There is not anyone of us who can say that we have not sinned. We may have committed a few sins, or we may have committed many sins, but all of us at one time in our life or another have done something to disobey God. Therefore, we are separated from Him and cannot know Him. We do not have eternal life according to Jesus’ definition.

Read John 3:16 and summarize it below:
“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Read Romans 5:8 and summarize it:
“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

In these portions of God’s word we read about his enormous love for us and the great lengths to which he went in order to demonstrate that love to us. He sent Jesus his only son to die on the cross in our place. It was our sin and our punishment but Jesus took it freely because he loves us.

When we choose to place our lives and trust in Jesus by asking him to come into our lives to be our Lord and Savior, we receive his forgiveness (1 John 1:9) and his gift of eternal life (John 3:16).

Read John 14:6
“Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.’”

Once we accept Jesus and put our trust in Him, this verse becomes true for us, too. We know God – we have the eternal life of which Jesus speaks. We are no longer separated from God because we have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus. When we ask him, he forgives us.

The first thing that Jesus prays is for us to know him. This shows us how important it is to Jesus. It is the first thing he prayed for. The most important thing we can ever do is know God. Knowing God is more important than the job we have, the car we drive, the people we meet. Without knowing God, we will be eternally separated from him – we will receive eternal death. Knowing God is eternal life.

Ask again: What is eternal life?
Eternal life is knowing God and His son, Jesus. Eternal life is no longer being separated from our God.

Ask again: When do we receive eternal life?

We receive eternal life the moment we give our lives to God and accept His son, Jesus, as our Lord and Savior.

Application

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Ask: Can you say with absolutely no doubt that you know God? Are you sure that you have eternal life?

Why or why not?

Take a few moments and share about when you accepted Christ.

If you are not sure that you know God but would like to, ask him to come into your life right now as we pray.