

The Gospel According to John “Jesus’ Prayer for His Disciples”

John 17:6-19



The structure of Jesus' prayer.

Jesus prayed for the manifestation and fulfillment of God's glory.

Jesus prayed for His Apostles.

Jesus prayed for His Church.

John 17:1-5

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven,
He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son,
that the Son may glorify You,
even as You gave Him authority over all flesh,
that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

This is eternal life, that they may know You,
the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished
the work which You have given Me to do.

Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself,
with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

John 17:6-8

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

John 17:9-12

“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them. I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You.

Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

John 17:13-19

“But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.

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

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.”

John 17:20-23

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

John 17:24-26

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

Main Idea

Knowing the mission He would give them and the troubles they would face, Jesus prayed for His Apostles, asking the Father to keep them in His name and fit them for the mission.

Jesus' Prayer for His Apostles

For whom did Jesus pray?



For whom did Jesus pray?

He prayed for the eleven Apostles.

John 17:6-9

“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”

“Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.

I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me.”

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out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me,
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I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world, but of those whom You have given Me.”

Why just eleven?

John 17:12

“While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

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and **not one of them perished but the
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so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Though Jesus thought of all His people as He prayed, here He was praying specifically for His Apostles whom He would send out to lay a foundation for His Church with the words He would give them.

John 17:7-8

“Now they have come to know that everything

You have given Me is from You; for **the words which**

You gave Me I have given to them...

Ephesians 2:19-20

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.

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For whom did Jesus pray?

He prayed for the eleven Apostles.

He prayed for the elect.

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but of those whom You have given Me.”

Though Jesus is praying here specifically for His eleven Apostles, His prayer for them is never disconnected from the work He is doing on behalf *of all* whom the Father gave Him.

The Father gave Jesus an elect people.

John 17:6

“I have manifested Your name to the men
whom You gave Me out of the world;
they were Yours and **You gave them to Me.**”

John 17:9-10

“I ask on behalf...of those **whom You have given**
Me;
for they are Yours; and all things that are Mine
are Yours, and Yours are Mine.”

The Father gave Jesus an elect people.

John 17:24

“Father, I desire that they also,
whom You have given Me, be with Me where I
am...”

John 18:9

“Of **those whom You have given Me** I lost not one.”

John 17:20

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone,
but for those also who believe in Me through their word.”

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If you have believed in Christ, He has prayed
for you and is still interceding for you.

Hebrews 7:25

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Jesus' Prayer for His Apostles

For whom did Jesus pray?

What circumstances led Jesus
to pray for them?



What circumstances led Him to pray?

He knew the mission
He would soon give them.

John 17:18

“As You sent Me into the world,
I also have sent them into the world.”

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Matthew 28:19

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.”

Luke 1:8

“You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth.”

John 17:20

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word.”

Jesus commissioned them as His Apostles, His sent ones, and charged them to take the gospel to the world.

Consider the magnitude
of this mission!

How would they do it?

John 17:18

“Now they have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

How would they do it?

John 17:18

“Now they have come to know that
everything You have given Me is from You;

for **the words which You gave Me I
have given to them;**

and they received them and truly understood that I came
forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

By faith!

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everything You have given Me is from You;
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forth from You, **and they believed that You
sent Me.”**

What circumstances led Him to pray?

He knew the mission He would soon give them.

He knew the troubles
they would face.

John 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you have tribulation,** but take courage; I have overcome the world.”

John 17:14

“I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

John 17:14

“I have given them Your word; **and the world**
has hated them, because they are not of the world,
even as I am not of the world.”

John 15:19

“If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.”

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Jesus knew He was sending them into hostile territory to do battle for the souls of those whom He would deliver from the enemy, so He prayed for their protection.

Jesus' Prayer for His Apostles

For whom did Jesus pray?

What circumstances led Jesus to pray for them?

For what did Jesus pray?



For what did Jesus pray?

That the Father would keep them
in His name.

**Jesus fulfilled God's promise to make
His name known to His people.**

John 17:6

“I have manifested Your name to the men
whom You gave Me out of the world.”

Isaiah 52:6-7f

Therefore My people shall know My name;
therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking,
“Here I am.”

*How lovely on the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news...*

Jesus' prayer...

John 17:11-12

“I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to You.

Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are. While I was with them, I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Jesus' prayer...

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which You have given Me; and I guarded them
and not one of them perished but the son of perdition,
so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

Being kept in the Father's name
would mean being protected from
falling away from Him —
being kept in the purity of doctrine
and in the purity of holy conduct.

Purity of Doctrine

John 17:6, 8, 14 and 17

“...they have kept Your word.”

“...for the words which You gave Me I have given to them; and they received them and truly understood that I came forth from You, and they believed that You sent Me.”

“I have given them Your word.”

“Sanctify them in truth; Your word is truth.”

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The unity of the Godhead is grounded
in their oneness of mind and of purpose –
the oneness of the Gospel.

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Ephesians 4:13

...until we all attain to **the unity of the faith,**
and of the knowledge of the Son of God...

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and of the knowledge of the Son of God...

Purity of Conduct

John 17:15

“I do not ask You to take them out of the world,
but **to keep them from the evil one.**”

1 John 5:18

We know that no one who is born of God sins;
but He who was born of God keeps him,
and the evil one does not touch him.

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and the evil one does not touch him.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For what did Jesus pray?

That the Father would keep them in His name.

That the Father would fit them
for the mission.

John 17:17-18

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

“As you have sent Me into the world,
I also have sent them into the world.”

Jesus connects their sanctification
to His commissioning of them.

John 17:17-18

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

“As you have sent Me into the world,
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Jesus prayed that they be set apart, made holy, fitted for the mission He gave them, by the truth of God's word.

Their sanctification was marked off by Christ's commissioning but was progressive in its outworking.

John 17:17-18

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God’s word (the gospel) is the *means* of sanctification because it defines and displays holiness and is the power that brings it about.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the word of the cross is foolishness
to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved
it is the power of God.

Though Jesus prayed specifically for His Apostles' sanctification, His prayer applied to us also, both in terms of our commissioning and in terms of our need for growth in holiness.

The Lord has fitted and is fitting you for His mission!

Conclusion

Praise God for His wisdom and power displayed by the effectiveness of His Apostles in carrying out their mission.

Take hold of Christ and His gospel for your salvation *and* for your sanctification.

Rest, knowing that Christ has prayed and is praying for you!