

John 17 is the Lord's Prayer; Matthew 6 is really the Disciple's Prayer. This is the prayer Jesus prayed just before his arrest. This is a conversation between a father & son based on truth. Truth about who the Father is, Jesus is, our standing in him, and God's heart for the world. Jesus models prayer here and our hearts need to align with Jesus in prayer reflecting God's heart.

John 17:1-5 - After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.¹

PRAY

An elderly man was crossing a road one day when a frog called out to him and said, "Old man, if you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He bent over, picked up the frog, put it in his pocket and continued walking.

Prayer's a powerful, mysterious thing. It's not only talking with, but communing with the Father; experiencing his character, & heart for the world. Polls have been done on prayer which reveal how self-centered our prayers are, coming to God with a litany of requests for him to bless. Are we communing with the Father when we approach with demands? How does Jesus model communing with the Father in prayer? What was most important to him?

This prayer is just before Judas betrays him on the eve of his arrest and death on the cross. Jesus knew it, what did he pray? If we look at John 17, it starts, 'After Jesus said this...' What did he say before? Starting in verse 31 of chapter 16 it says, ³¹ "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. ³² "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. ³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."²

This concludes Jesus' conversation with the disciples in the upper room which started back in Chapter 13, where he says many important things too lengthy to address now. To appreciate Jesus' prayer you'd need to read from chapter 13-16. But one important thing, he's leaving his disciples with the truth that Jesus and the Father are one; in 14:9 he says 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father'. And here he says, 'Do you now believe!' - He's overcome the world and will leave them, but not alone.

¹ *The New International Version*. 2011 (Jn 17:1-5). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

² *The New International Version*. 2011 (Jn 16:31-33). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Now in verses 1-5 of chapter 17 Jesus prays for his glory revealing truths about the Father, our standing before him, and his heart for the world. He asks for God to glorify himself by glorifying the Son. Jesus was the one truly perfect sinless person; he finished the Father's work perfectly. Jesus brought glory to the Father by obedience to the Father's heart. Remember in Matthew 28 it says that Jesus had been given all authority in heaven and on earth, the same is stated here. He has been given all authority, but he's also been given something else by the Father; his people. You're a gift from the Father to the Son. A profound thought, it reminds us of Ephesians; saved by grace through faith, this not of ourselves, but a gift from God. We've done nothing to deserve the Father's affections. Nothing but what deserves condemnation. Yet, he chose us, as a gift for the Son because he finished the work! No favorites, all have fallen short of the glory of God, except Jesus the perfect sinless sacrifice.

There may be a difference between your experience and your standing in Jesus. Your standing is that you've been chosen as a gift of the Father to the Son. In Jesus you stand before the Father as pure and blameless since all authority has been given to him. Jesus finished the work of the Great High Priest making final sacrifice for his people, He speaks as if the cross is already behind him. Due to his work, you now stand before God covered by the perfect record of Jesus, without condemnation before the Father! When God looks at you, he sees the sinless record of Jesus, not your sin nature. That's your standing before him. However, since we still battle our sinful nature in a hostile world, we experience inadequacy. It feels as if we come up short; or we're a lost cause. Not true; you're a gift, eternally stowed away in the bosom of the Father because of the Son's perfect sacrifice; the one who has authority to reconcile you to God; the Great High Priest & sacrificial lamb!

Once a year the High Priest would enter the Temple. With the blood of a lamb he'd make blood sacrifice for the people in the Holy of Holies. A room behind a large curtain where the presence of God resided. A foreshadow of the coming final sacrificial Lamb of God. The Holy of Holies, was covered by this curtain, no one could enter before that, only the Great High Priest, and he only on one day a year. But the day Jesus was crucified the curtain was ripped in two signifying, by the Blood of Jesus, the final sacrificial lamb, all can enter & be reconciled with God. Jesus glorified God by his obedience & sacrifice for us, we're his treasured possession. And he said on that cross - it is finished (Jhn 19:30)!

Jesus started praying for himself, now he prays for the disciples.

John 17:6-19 - ⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer,

but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.³

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will stay with you for ONE WEEK." The old man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it and returned it to the pocket. The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you and do ANYTHING you want." Again the old man took the frog out, smiled at it and put it back into his pocket.

What's in a name? If you say Joe Davis, what comes to mind? If you don't know him, maybe nothing but a bunch of letters put together to make a sound; Joe Davis. You may know he's a person, but have no knowledge of him. But, if you know Joe, the name takes on meaning. When the name's uttered you get a mental image of his physical stature, his desires, wants, pains, sin, passions, talents, and ambitions; you know the person. However, a person is a complicated and intricate makeup of physical characteristics, personality, history, memories, etc. It's an ongoing process to know them and people surprise. We can know them, but are constantly discovering new things about them.

Jesus says he's revealed God; revealed his name. To know God by name is more than just to know a bunch of letters to form a sound; God. (*The name of God to Jews was so revered it could not be uttered, even to this day. God comes to us by many names; Jehovah-Jirah, the Lord will provide, Jehovah-Ropheka, the Lord your healer, Jehovah-Tsidkenu, the Lord our righteousness*) To know God by name is to know his character, heart, treasures, loves, passions, goodness, etc. To see Jesus, is to see God; to know Jesus is to know God. To follow Jesus is to follow the Father's heart! Jesus revealed the name of the Father in himself. Isaiah and the Psalms talk about his people knowing his name and trusting in it. How different would our choices be if focused on Jesus? How different would our desires be if we allowed his truth to change us (vs17)? We're his treasured possession, his Church, his love; and just as Jesus revealed the Father's heart (vs18), he sends us out as ambassadors to others.

Jesus says the Father's words had been accepted by the disciples, that they'd obeyed his word. Sort of strange, they didn't seem to reflect God. Did he mean they were

³ *The New International Version*. 2011 (Jn 17:6–19). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

perfect? No, it means they'd come to a point of understanding who God is by knowing Jesus, and would continue on the journey; they'd continually experience God through his Word, the Holy Spirit, and under the powerful protection of his name (vs11). In 15:3 he says, "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you." So, in standing before God they'd been justified/made right with the Father via Jesus, and in experience they were on an ongoing journey of knowing him. They knew him, and would get to know him at the same time.

Just before his arrest and crucifixion Jesus prayed for his disciples. Would that have been your prayer facing death? Would you've prayed for the protection of others? That they have joy and protection under the name of the Father and would continue to be made into his likeness?

He's prayed for himself, the disciples, and now for us!

John 17:20-26 - ²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—²³ I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. ²⁵ "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." ⁴

Finally, the frog asked, "What's the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess and that I'll stay with you and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?" The old man said, "Look. I'm an old man and, at my age, I'd rather have a talking frog."

Years ago I didn't know Jesus, I knew the letters J.E.S.U.S., but I didn't know the person. I was driving alone in Lancaster one day, I was about 20, and stopped at a church. I knocked at the pastor's door; to his surprise this young stranger asked to talk about Jesus; a pastor's dream. As I entered his office, what struck me were all the frogs. They were everywhere, porcelain frogs, plastic frogs, wooden frogs, glass frogs. Intrigued, I asked, "What's with all the frogs?" He said that he'd been turned from a frog to a prince; the cross was the kiss which reconciled him to the Father; that kiss made him new. He never quoted Scripture, if he did, I don't remember, but I remember the illustration.

As frogs, we never knew we needed that kiss. We never begged the old man to kiss us. The Father chose us before the creation of the world, gave us to the Son as a gift, and

⁴ *The New International Version*. 2011 (Jn 17:20–26). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

kisses us with the cross of Jesus. It's still happening. Jesus prayed this prayer eons ago and the kisses keep on coming. His hearts desire is to see us with him. Jesus is continually making the Father known through the Church; in our oneness & unity under him we reveal the Father's heart - in doing so we bring the kiss of Jesus to people not even aware they need a kiss. Oneness and unity do not suggest there aren't disagreements, but that we're all tuned to Jesus. All too often, we allow those disagreements to create separation; not his intention.

A.W. Tozer in his book 'The Pursuit of God' says this, "Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshippers meeting together, each one looking away to Jesus, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become unity conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship." Unity, love & oneness are a byproduct of focus on Jesus. We don't strive for unity, we strive for Jesus, and community happens.

Your walk with Jesus is important; to you, the faith community, your neighbors, and the Glory of Jesus' name. It's comforting to know Jesus not only had the disciples on his heart before he was crucified, but you as well. John 17 is a record of Jesus talking with the Father about us! Maybe there's disunity in churches because hearts aren't tuned to Jesus. When we are, we're closer to each other, to Jesus, and therefore, the Father. Then Jesus is glorified through the faith community. If we're all following after the heart of Jesus, tuned to the same fork, what could God do through such obedient servants?

Jesus prayed this within ear shot of the disciples. A conversational prayer based on truth with his Father. How do we teach relationship, passion or prayer? We model it; children who long after Jesus.

Try praying what's on his heart instead of your list of demands to be blessed. Pray Jesus would be glorified. Pray for unity in church. Pray for those who need that kiss. Jesus stood at death's door about to be betrayed and denied, he knew it. His prayer, reflective of the Father's heart, was for glorification of his name, protection and sanctification of believers, for those yet to believe & for unity for the sake of the name of God. Would you've prayed that sitting on death row?