

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Please turn your bibles with me to the Gospel of John, chapter 17

We are continuing our verse by verse study through the Gospel of John and we currently find ourselves in the middle of the real Lord's prayer as Jesus prays for Himself, His disciples and even for you and me – those of us that will believe later.

Jesus is praying out loud – in the presence of His disciples

And so therefore, John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit – gives us access to this intimate conversation that Jesus is having with God the Father moments before He was to be arrested, tortured and nailed to a Roman cross to die for us.

And I am so thankful that God has given us this prayer here because through it we get to see Jesus' heart

Because that is what our prayer life reveals – it reveals our heart.

And therefore - we are learning things about Jesus and we are learning things about ourselves through His prayer life

In our text this morning – we are going to finish up the portion of Jesus' prayer where He prays for His disciples –

And in the prayer He is going to reveal to them what their lives are going to be like when He returns to the Father.

In other words – the disciples and us are going to get insight into what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ –

What is expected of those who have been called to continue in the work that He began.

Let's pray...

[Jhn 17:13-18 NKJV] 13 "But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Jesus imminent departure is made clear by the beginning portion of verse 13

But now I come to You –

He is speaking to the Father –

Jesus is saying – I am almost home – mission accomplished.

Once I get to the other side of the cross – I'm home

But my prayer is for these guys

These guys that you have given Me

These guys that have kept Your Word

These guys that have believed in Me

They are going to stick around for a while

And I pray that they may have **My joy fulfilled in themselves**

The life of the believer is called to be not funny, not just happy – but joyful

When the world looks at us – one of the ways that they are able to see whether or not we are a disciple of Jesus Christ is whether or not we are full of joy

Not a joy that we can have by doing religious work or by trying to be good – it is a supernatural joy that only He provides by abiding in Him and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Rom 15:13 NKJV] 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

There is an old saying - You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar

When we go to the market

When we are at work

When we are at the drive thru

When we show up to fellowship with one another

– do people see honey or do they see vinegar

As our Good Shepherd, regarding His sheep – Jesus said, “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

And one of the tools that the enemy uses is the suggestion that when an individual embraces faith and trust in Jesus – that somehow all the joy is taken out of our lives.

“Look at all the jars of vinegar going to church on Sunday – you don’t want to be like that do you?”

But the truth is that God wants the believer to be filled not just with any joy – but the full measure of His Son’s joy

His joy!!!!

BTW – where did Jesus get His joy from – by bringing glory to God, by accomplishing the work He had given Him to do.

[Jhn 15:10-11 NKJV] 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and [that] your joy may be full.

Joyful Christians are biblical Christians

Joyful Christians are in the word

Joyful Christians are those who delight in the law of the Lord

14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

I had you make a note of the word "word" here in verse 14

Because earlier in His prayer – in verse 8 – Jesus used a different word for word

For I have given to them the words which You have given Me;

In verse 8 – Jesus uses the Greek word (rhema) that means spoken word – it has the idea of the right word at the right time

Here is verse 14 – Jesus uses the Greek word, "logos" – and this word means the written word

So what Jesus is saying in His prayer is I have given them the spoken word (the right word at the right time) and the written word – which in those days was the Old Testament (the book of the Law and the Prophets)

BTW – in His ministry there is a perfect example of this

You might write down Luke 4

Because in Luke 4 – Jesus goes to the synagogue in Nazareth and He opens up the scrolls and begins to read from the book of Isaiah

So – He gives reads to them the logos, the written word and then He proceeds to give them the rhema – the right word at the right time – as He instructed

And in the same way that Jesus demonstrated this in the synagogue – He did the same thing with His disciples – He gave them the logos and the rhema, the spoken and the written word

Church, this is how we grow spiritually – by receiving His word

We are never going to understand how to live in the world if we are not in His word

We are not going to know how to be a parent

We are not going to know how to handle conflict

We are not going to know anything that relates to spiritual things without the Word of God

Both the written word and the spoken word – the word that is taught

Now, notice the response – to the giving of the Word

Jesus points out in the prayer that His disciples are going to be hated

So we see this constant tension –

In verse 13, Jesus is praying that they may have His joy and because of what He told them, the world is going to hate them

Why are they going to be hated???

Because when they received the word – they were changed by the word

And when the word began to transform them and they began to live a different lifestyle as they were filled with the Spirit – the world began to hate them

Why – because they were different

Because they were no longer of this world

Their citizenship was in heaven

They were walking around filled with joy

Their life was so different that the world began to hate them

And the world hated them because -

They didn't compromise

They didn't try to assimilate with what the world was doing

One of the reasons that many of us struggle in with our walk is that our human flesh wants us to be liked by all

We don't want to be hated

So – we try not to be too different

We try to assimilate

And therefore, we compromise because we are no longer be obedient to His word

So, we are to be full of joy and we are to be hated

One more thing I want to add on this –

The bible says that the gospel is offensive

But here is the thing church –

the bible never says that we as Christians should be offensive

Because sometimes we can deliver the gospel message in a hurtful way

Instead of showing the same grace and love that was shown to us when we were of this world

15 "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 "They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

Jesus is leaving –

However, the disciples are not leaving – they have a task that needs to be fulfilled

These disciples must bear witness/ they must testify of Jesus

That is what Jesus had told them earlier in the evening (end of ch 15)

Jesus is praying – “Don’t take them out Father – just protect hem”

“Keep them protected in this hostile world”

We all watch the news – we see how the world around if falling apart

We all have bodies that are hurting

We all have bodies that are making noises

We are forgetting things – earlier this week, I showed up to work without my badge and I get to keypad and I forgot my code – I have used the same code for at least twelve years.

Some of us have loved ones waiting for us in heaven and we can't wait to be reunited with them

I am ready to go

Maranatha!

Jesus, prays - I do not pray that You should take them out of the world

We have to understand that this is His will for His disciples back then and it is His will for His disciples today

It is God's will that we are where we are right now -

Turn your bible with me to Numbers 11

I am going to show you three different individuals who just like us – told God – take me home already!!!

Illustration – Num 11 Turn to Numbers 11

Here in Numbers 11 – the Children of Israel were doing what they did best – they were complaining – they were getting tired of eating manna.

[Num 11:10-15 NKJV] 10 Then Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent; and the anger of the LORD was greatly aroused; Moses also was displeased. 11 So Moses said to the LORD, “Why have You afflicted Your servant? And why have I not found favor in Your sight, that You have laid the burden of all these people on me? 12 “Did I conceive all these people? Did I beget them, that You should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a guardian carries a nursing child,’ to the land which You swore to their fathers? 13 “Where am I to get meat to give to all these people? For they weep all over me, saying, ‘Give us meat, that we may eat.’ 14 “I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden [is] too heavy for me. 15 “If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favor in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness!”

Next one – Elijah

Turn to 1 Kings 19

Elijah – had just witnessed God’s great victory on Mt Carmel

But as soon as he gets word that Jezebel is after him – he flees.

[1Ki 19:4 NKJV] 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he prayed that he might die, and said, "It is enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I [am] no better than my fathers!"

What about Jonah

He had just been a witness to one of the greatest spiritual awakenings in all of scripture – as all the people of Nineveh repented

And where is Jonah – moping

Hoping that God zaps Nineveh

[Jon 4:1-3 NKJV] 1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the LORD, and said, "Ah, LORD, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You [are] a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 "Therefore now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for [it is] better for me to die than to live!"

What did God do to these three men – did He honor their request?

Did He take them out of the world?

No, He sent them back to the world

Hey guys! There is work to be done. I am not done with you!

Why do we live in the city that we live in?

Because God put us there

Why do we work where we work?

Because God put us there

Why are we part of a dysfunctional family?

Because God put us there

He hasn't fulfilled His will for our lives yet

He is not done with us yet

How do we know that He is not done with us? Because we are still here.

We have to remember that we are still in the world – but we are not of the world

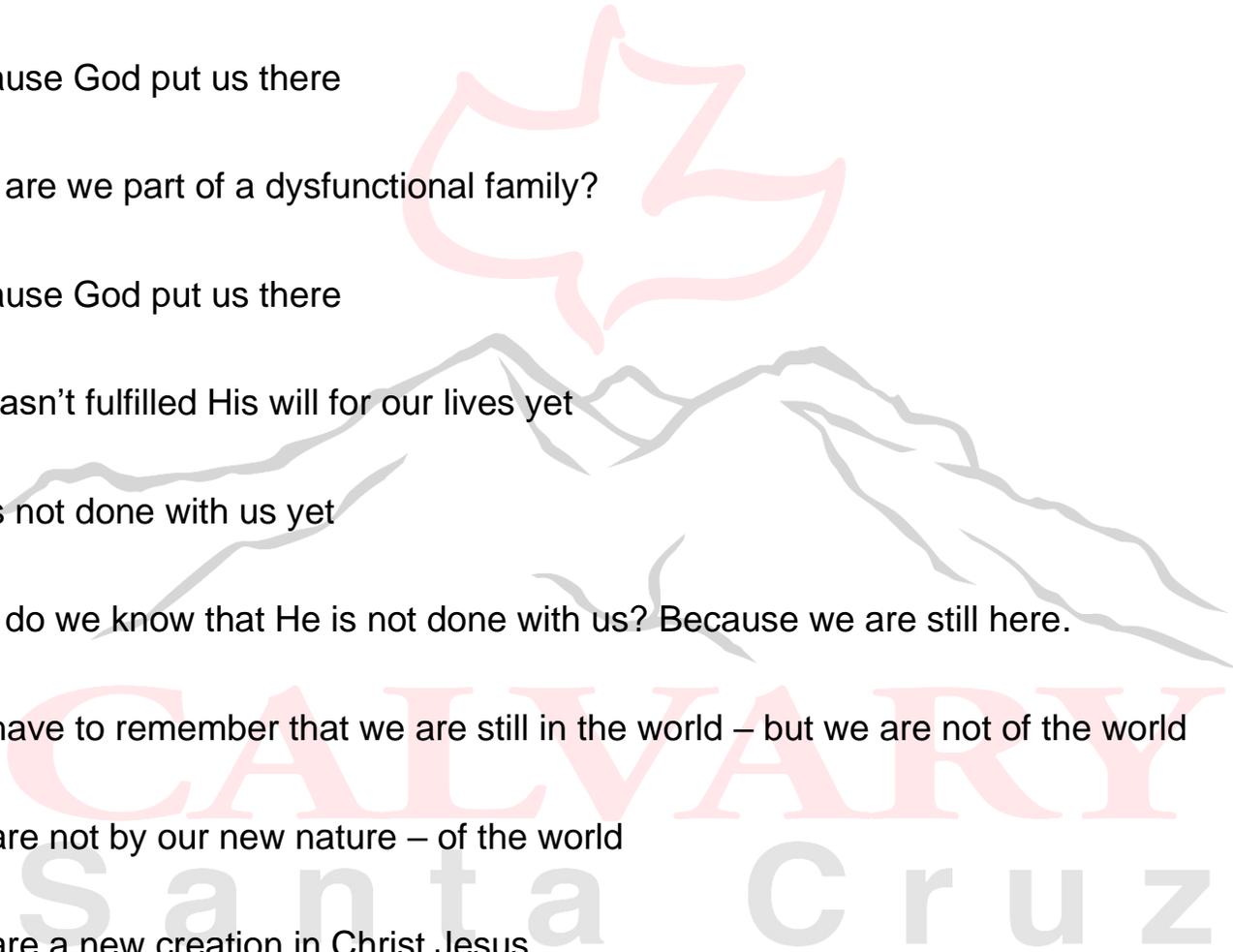
We are not by our new nature – of the world

We are a new creation in Christ Jesus

We are in Christ but we are also in Nogales

We are in Christ but also in Rio Rico, in Sahuarita and so on

And we are to live in Christ in these areas – because God has put us in these areas.



God wants us to be in this world – as hard and as difficult and tasteless as it may be.

We are not called to live a life of isolation – to form a community of only true believers.

That will not work

You know why it will not work – because you and I will be there

Our flesh will take over and someone will do something that will get on the nerve of someone else

God's will for our lives is not separation – not isolation

God's will for our lives is infiltration

We are to be the salt and the light of the world

That gives us insight on what our responsibility is as followers of Jesus

God's peoples' place is in the world

And it is in the world where we need to be to complete the task we have been given and therefore we need to be protected from evil – because evil is fatal to the fulfillment of the task.

And that is what Jesus is praying – that we are kept, that we are protected – it doesn't mean we are not going to go through difficulties or through persecution or rejection.

It means that as we are in the world fulfilling the task that God has given to us – we know that Jesus is our Advocate at the Father's side, asking that we be kept safe from the evil one.

17 "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

The word sanctify means to set apart

And notice the means that we are to be set apart – His word

God's word is the ultimate standard for our life and for our doctrine

How do we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ?

How do we become increasingly useful to the Master?

How are we sanctified for God's purposes?

The answer is in direct proportion to the scriptures

Because as we fill our minds with God's word we begin to think like God thinks – which means we stop thinking like the world thinks

the result will be that we will be transformed in our life by the Holy Spirit—from the inside out.

God's Word teaches us that godly living always flows from godly thinking—and godly thinking starts when we fill our mind with good doctrine (the Word of God).

[Psa 119:9-11 NKJV] 9 BETH. How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. 10 With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! 11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

Jesus didn't just leave the disciples to sanctify themselves.

He prayed for their sanctification.

This process, as the keeping process, is not left to us alone; it is a work of God in us and through us.

19 "And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus sanctified Himself to do the will of the Father.

He set Himself apart unto God, in order to carry out the redemptive plans and purposes that God had prepared for Him to do –

so that all who believe in Him might also be sanctified unto God..

You see, church

Jesus' prayer for His disciples – is to prepare them for spiritual warfare.

He is telling His disciples and us – how they and us, like the Lord Jesus Himself, would be overcomers.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the

cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word

and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

In order for us to be really used by God, we have to be men and women of His word

And my prayer is that the Lord may use all of us to be set apart in a world that need to see, hear and feel the gospel – the hope of salvation

That is why Jesus prayed the prayer He did

God is going to keep His word and leave us here in the world

And when He is done with us – He is going to take us home

And what a glorious day that will be

But until then – we serve Him

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 '

May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'

