

### Introduction

1. Pastor John MacArthur said in his prayer-life he mostly prays for others rather than himself.
    - a. As far as his own needs go he said he just trusts the promises of Scripture.
    - b. Most of his time in prayer is spent praying for the needs of others.<sup>1</sup>
    - c. That was also the pattern of Jesus. Look at His greatest prayer in John 17. (**Show**)<sup>2</sup>
      - i. 26 verses. 1/5 for Himself, vv. 1-5; 4/5ths for His present and future disciples, vv. 6-26.
      - ii. This = good model for us, isn't it? **Jesus = single petition for self; several for disciples.**<sup>3</sup>
    - d. **Length of this prayer [shows] Jesus had greater concern for His disciples' welfare than for His own.**<sup>4</sup>
  2. Today we begin looking at Jesus' great concern for the welfare of His own. (**Show Title/Text**)<sup>5</sup>
    - a. Open up to v. 6. Grateful ESV translates **people** generically to include all Christians.<sup>6</sup>
    - b. What Jesus prays in vv. 6-19 was immediately for the 11, but **applies to all believers.**<sup>7</sup>
    - c. Two questions are answered for us: Why did Jesus pray & what did Jesus pray? (**Show**)
- I. Why does Jesus pray for His disciples, vv. 6-10?**
- A. **Disciples Belong to Both the Father & the Son, v. 6.**
    1. We have a special concern for what belongs to us don't we?
      - a. If I went out into a parking lot & saw someone's car badly dented, I'd feel bad.
      - b. If went out into a parking lot & saw **MY** car badly dented, I'd feel **REALLY** bad. Natural.
    2. This prayer reveals Jesus' inmost thots about His disciples. Shows His heart for us.
    3. **Key:** We're special cause belong to Jesus, & cause belong to Jesus belong to God, v. 10.
    4. Whoever Jesus possesses Father possesses, & whoever Father possesses Jesus possess.
      - a. **Yours they were:** We belonged to God in eternity past when He chose us for Himself.<sup>8</sup>
      - b. **You gave them to me:** We belong to Jesus now when God gives us to Him at our salv.
      - c. **Not one of them has been lost,** v. 12: We belong to Jesus in eternity future in heaven.
    5. Because of this we have a special relationship with God that only believers have.
      - a. **Manifested your name** = we get to know God as He really is thru Jesus word/works.
      - b. **Name = God's nature** as showing Who He really is.<sup>9</sup> Jesus uniquely shows as **Father**.
      - c. **Father** = 122xs in John, 53xs in chps. 13-17 (nearly 1/2), 19xs in chps. 16 & 17 (1/3 +).<sup>10</sup>
      - d. No place did any Israelite ever address God as **"My Father."**<sup>11</sup> Considered improper.
      - e. **3 things:** always **Father** used in prayer, totally unique to Jesus, word gave to disciples.
    6. If ever want to know specialness as believer to Jesus, read this prayer.

<sup>1</sup> I heard this in a message MacArthur gave or read it in one of his publications. It struck me very distinctly.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.examiner.com/article/day-16-scripture-and-meditation-john-17>. Accessed 3/19/16.

<sup>3</sup> Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (pp. 557–558). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

<sup>4</sup> Constable, T. (2003). *Tom Constable's Expository Notes on the Bible* (Jn 17:4). Galaxie Software.

<sup>5</sup> [http://3chv.org/cpt\\_sermons/john-176-19/](http://3chv.org/cpt_sermons/john-176-19/). Accessed 3/19/16.

<sup>6</sup> Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship. Entry #444, 1, 1a.

<sup>7</sup> Blum, E. A. (1985). John. In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 331). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>8</sup> **Amazing statement. Before the 11 ever met Jesus already belonged to the Father as part of His eternal plan.**

<sup>9</sup> Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., & Bauer, W. (2000). *A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature* (3rd ed., p. 712). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

<sup>10</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *The Bible exposition commentary* (Vol. 1, p. 368). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

<sup>11</sup> Boice, J. M. (2005). *The Gospel of John: an expositional commentary* (pp. 1272–1273). Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

- a. Six times Jesus calls God His Father, vv. 1, 5, 11, 21, 24, 25.
- b. We have the same privilege. We know God as Father.

**B. Disciples Believe in the Father thru the Son, vv. 7-8.**

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> reason Jesus prayed for the disciples is because they were believers, v. 8.
  - a. Do you know the most important thing we can do in response to God is believe?
  - b. Jews asked Jesus, **What must we do, to be doing the works of God?** John 6:28
  - c. **This is the work of God, that you believe in him who he has sent,** v. 29.
2. Jesus' answer always surprised me. Why answer question about doing w/believing?
  - a. That puzzle is solved right here, vv. 7-8. Salvation is not what we do for God.
  - b. It is what He does for us in the person of His Son whom He has sent.
  - c. Faith accepts God's plan by believing His word is true about His Son.
  - d. Doing a work depends on us; believing God's word about His son depends on Him.
3. Pastor Donald Grey Barnhouse was talking to man about gospel.<sup>12</sup> Man said,
  - a. **But what does God want? Just tell me, what does God want? Answer came in flash.**
  - b. **What God wants most in all the world is to be believed. He wants to be trusted.**
4. Read 1 John 5:10-12. Faith honors God's word & brings us into relationship w/His Son.
  - a. It is only after we have that relationship that we can do anything acceptable to God.
  - b. If not have physical life not DO phys. things. Not have spiritual life not DO spir. things.
  - c. When we have the Son we have the life. After have the life then can please the Father.

**C. Disciples Bring Glory to the Son, vv. 9-10.**

1. Jesus was getting ready to leave. He had brought glory to the Father, vv. 1-5.
2. Now as He gets ready to leave, He says it is thru us that His glory is seen, v. 10.
3. You can see why Jesus prays for us, right? If He is going to receive glory, it's thru us.
  - a. Pastor David Allen said we are **Exhibit A** to the world of God's saving power.<sup>13</sup>
  - b. For 12-yrs been in UP there's a man know came from foreign country. Strong accent.
  - c. One of most gracious men ever met. Always smiling, kind, considerate. Sub for son.
  - d. Friday night asked me what doing at library. **Preparing sermon. Oh, digging into Word?**
  - e. Who talks like that? Christians. He's believer. My son said, **Dad, didn't you know that?**
  - f. I didn't know it, but for 12-yrs I could surely see it. Jesus has been glorified in him.
  - g. He asked me to pray for his brother in Africa w/cancer. I'm now praying for his family.
4. What = disciple? (**Show**) Belongs to Father/Son. Believe in Father thru Son. Brings glory Son.
  - a. Do you have this life? If you do, Jesus is praying for you. If you don't, He is not, v. 9.
  - b. This is the most wonderful life in all the world. Nothing comes close to this life.
5. You will notice that our mission statement is **"becoming Christ-followers."**
  - a. **Becoming** does not mean that no one can ever be sure they are a disciple.
  - b. It just means that glorifying Jesus is a life-long process that calls for constant growth.
6. Dr. Ralph Keiper was one of the most interesting preachers I have ever heard.
  - a. He taught at Denver Theological Seminary and was a traveling Bible teacher.
  - b. He was almost completely blind as you can make out in this photo. (**Show**)<sup>14</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Boice, J. M., op. cit., (p. 1285).

<sup>13</sup> My mother shared these words with me she heard from Pastor Allen in Detroit back in the 50s at Detroit Bible Institute.

<sup>14</sup> <http://www.ccel.us/images/ralph.keiper.2.jpg>. Accessed 3/19/16.

- c. **When he read the Bible he held it right up next to his face. Never forgot him.**
  - d. **When Ralph L. Keiper was preaching at a missions conference in Deerfield Street, New Jersey, he told about a little girl who had come to see him early in his ministry. She was about eight years old. She had been to the church's daily vacation Bible school, and when she came into his study she asked, "Mr. Keiper, is it all right if I commit suicide?"**
  - e. **The young pastor was startled. But he had learned never to give a quick yes or no answer to a child's question without first discovering why the child was asking the question. So he countered, "Mary, why would you ever want to commit suicide?" "Well," Mary said, "it's because of what I learned in Bible school this morning."**
  - f. **Keiper wondered to himself, "What was this child told?" She continued, "We were taught that heaven is a wonderful place—no fear, no crying, no fighting, just to be with the Lord. Won't that be wonderful! We were taught that when we die we will be with Jesus. Did I hear it right, Mr. Keiper?"**
  - g. **"Yes, you did, Mary. But why would you want to commit suicide?" "Well," she said, "you have been in my home. You know my mother and daddy. They don't know Jesus. Many times they are drunk. So we have to get ourselves up in the morning, get our own breakfast and go to school with dirty clothes. The children make fun of us, and when we come home again we hear fighting and things that make us afraid. Why shouldn't I commit suicide? Wouldn't heaven be better?"**
  - h. **It is clear that Mary did not believe in theoretical theology; she believed in practical theology, and she was facing a very practical problem. What she was really asking was why we are in this world anyway. If this world is such a sin-cursed place and heaven is such a blessed place, why do we have to stay here? Why does God not take us to heaven immediately upon our conversion? Or, failing that, why do we not all take our own lives and so speed up what is an inevitable ending anyway?**
  - i. **Keiper answered by saying, "Mary, there is only one reason in God's world why we are here. And that is that through our testimony, by life and by word, we might have the privilege of bringing people to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus." He then indicated that, as Mary did this, it might be in the Lord's providence that her parents would come to know the Lord as their Savior. Later, her mother did.<sup>15</sup>**
7. **What = disciple? (Show) Belongs to Father/Son. Believe in Father thru Son. Brings glory Son.**
8. **This is the only reason why we are here. It is why Jesus prays for us.**

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<sup>15</sup> Boice, J. M. op. cit., (pp. 1319-20).