

THE GREATEST PRAYER JESUS EVER PRAYED

INTRODUCTION

John 13-17 is known as the “Upper Room Discourse” and it is the longest conversation that Jesus had with anyone in the Bible because it lasts for five chapters. By comparison, the Sermon on the Mount lasts for three chapters and the Olivet Discourse lasts for two but this section stands out from all the rest because it is twice as long. Not only that but it also ends with a prayer which is what we are going to talk about this morning by looking at “3 Things that Jesus Prays for in the Greatest Prayer He Ever Prayed.”

1. Jesus Prays for Himself (verses 1-5).

Verses 1-5 says, *“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.’”*

Discussion Question A: Explain this passage in your own words.

Discussion Question B: Why does Jesus bring up the issue of “glory” so much in this passage and how does it relate to the cross? Did the people of Jesus’ day glorify Him the way that He deserved? Why / Why not?

2). Jesus Prays for His Disciples (verses 6-19).

Verses 6-11, 17 says, *“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; 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 ... Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”*

Discussion Question A: What are the two requests that Jesus makes on behalf of the disciples here?

Discussion Question B: How were these two requests fulfilled in the lives of the disciples? What are some ways that these two requests are being fulfilled in our lives today?

3). Jesus Prays for Us (verses 20-26).

Verses 20-23 says, *“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.”*

Discussion Question A: What does the phrase “that they may be one” mean?

Discussion Question B: Why was the church’s future unity so important to Jesus on the last night of His life and why should it be important to us? What are some practical ways that we can seek to strengthen the unity of our church family here at MFBC?