

A Prayer for All Time: Part 1

John 17.1-8

If you really want to know a person's spiritual heart, listen to them pray. In John 17, we have a 'front-row seat' as Jesus prays to His Father, just before going to the cross. His words show His obedience to His Father, His passion for believers, and through them His desire to save the lost.

Jesus Asks for Glory (1-5)

'Glorify Me...so I may glorify You...by giving eternal life.' (1-2)

'Knowing You is eternal life – now and forever!' (3)

'Glorify Me with Yourself...as I accomplish My mission.' (4-5)

Jesus Affirms His Ministry and the Disciples' Faith (6-8)

"I revealed Your name (to the disciples)..." = revealed God

"...they have kept Your word" = disciples believed in Jesus

"...they believed that You sent Me" → (time to pray for them!)

How should we then pray?

- "Lord, I want You to be glorified through my life."
- "Lord, use me to fulfill Your mission in the world."
- "Lord, may others see Jesus through my life."



Jesus' "high priestly prayer" in John 17 is a glimpse of His heart. If you want to get to know someone intimately, listen to them talk to God. In John 17, we get to 'listen in' as Jesus talks with His heavenly Father. For Jesus, prayer was a common thing. He prayed alone (Mt. 14.23; Mk. 1.35; 6.46; Lk. 5.16; 9.18; 22.39-41), in public (Jn. 11.41-42; 12.27-30), before meals (Mt. 26.26; Mk. 8.6; Lk. 24.30; Jn. 6.11), before important decisions (Lk. 6.12-13), before healing (Mk. 7.34-35), after healing (Lk. 5.16), etc. He repeatedly taught on the importance of prayer (Mt. 5.44; 6.5-15; 7.7-11; 18.19-20; 21.22; Mk. 11.24-26; Lk. 6.27-28; 11.2-4, 9-13; Jn. 14.13-14; 15.7,16; 16.23-24).

Look at the passages listed below. How did Jesus pray? Why did He pray? What can you learn from Jesus' prayers?

At His Baptism (Lk. 3.21-22)

Early morning after one of His busiest recorded days (Mk. 1.35)

Often after days of ministry in Galilee (Lk. 5.16)

All night before choosing His 12 disciples (Lk. 6.12-13)

When confronting unbelieving Jews (Mt. 11.25-26)

Before feeding the 5000 (Mt. 14.19; Mk. 6.41; Lk. 9.16; Jn. 6.11)

After feeding, before walking on water (Mt. 14.23; Mk. 6.46; Jn. 6.15)

Healing a deaf and mute man (Mk. 7.34)

Before feeding the 4000 (Mt. 15.36; Mk. 8.6-7)

While teaching the disciples (Lk. 9.18)

At His transfiguration (Lk. 9.28-29)

When the seventy returned from ministry trip (Lk. 10.21)

Before teaching the disciples on prayer (Lk. 11.1)

Before raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn. 11.41-42)

Praying for little children (Mt. 19.13-15; Mk. 10.13-16; Lk. 18.15-17)

Asking the Father to glorify His name (Jn. 12.27-28)

Giving thanks at the Last Supper (Mt. 26.26; Mk. 14.22-23; Lk. 22.19)

For Peter when Satan "sifted" him, before his denial (Lk. 22.31-32)

Jesus' in Gethsemane (Mt. 26.36-46; Mk. 14.32-42; Lk. 22.39-46)

"Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." (Lk. 23.34)

"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mt. 27.46; Mk. 15.34)

"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit." (Lk. 23.46)