

“PRAYING FOR PEOPLE”

John 17:9-17

John 17 is a prayer of Jesus Christ. He is nearing the end of His ministry/His life – what is important for Him to do? Pray for his men! I was asked a few times about something guys heard me pray for in the morning. Made me think about praying for people.

John 17:9-17 ⁹*I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹²While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I 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. ¹⁵I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

I. THE NEED FOR PRAYER

A. One of the main tasks of leadership is praying for people

1. Prayer is a leadership dimension/pastoral issue: *We pastor people on our knees*
 - a. **V9** *I pray for them.*
2. I am asking for a supernatural dimension to be added to their hearts/lives/situations
 - a. Prayer is going to make a practical difference in their lives
3. Prayer is an obligation – especially a leadership obligation
 - a. **1 Samuel 12:23** *As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you.*

B. 3 dimensions of prayer for others

1. **We need to pray for people personally: By name!**
 - a. **Luke 22:31-32** *And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. ³²But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*
 1. His individual weaknesses/current situation: Not the same as for others
2. **We need to pray for the group: He is praying for His followers**
 - a. The church b. Our Fellowship
3. **We need to pray for leaders: He is specifically praying for His disciples**
 - a. Leaders set the pace/have influence on others/determine what the entire group becomes
 1. In the church: Pastors/Ministry leaders 2. In our Fellowship: Our leaders

II. LEADERSHIP PRAYERS

A. Jesus prays for unity: **V11 that they may be one as We are.**

1. Disunity is destructive: Tower of Babel – all progress was destroyed by disunity
 - a. Competition/gossip/fighting/suspicion
 1. It distracts/it changes people negatively/it discourages/it blocks God’s power/opens us to hell
2. So we pray for unity – or against disunity

B. Jesus prays for protection: **V11 Keep **V12** kept **V15** keep the word means protect! Guard from harm**

1. The enemy of our souls wants to harm us – and the work of God
 - a. He makes plans: No weapon formed against you...hand-crafted
 - b. We have no idea all those plans could be: Temptation/slander/witchcraft
2. But it doesn’t matter: We can pray – and God will protect
 - a. ³² *But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren*
 1. Temptation 2. False doctrine: Brownsville – PM felt it wasn’t God/dangerous 3. People
 - b. **V15** *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.*

C. Jesus prays for equipping: **V17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

1. Cause them to be set apart – or to be able to do what God called them to do
 - a. Wisdom/fruitfulness/balance/people skills/compassion/anointing...

III. WHAT PRAYER PRODUCES

A. Prayer causes the will of God to be accomplished: **V9 those whom You have given Me**

1. God plans things to happen in the world/the church/our lives – prayer makes it possible!

B. Prayer causes people to be blessed: **V13 ...that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.**

1. They may have my joy...life goes better when we are on track/doing the will of God
2. There are things that please God: *My joy!*