

175. The Gospel of John—17:9-10

“With Jesus Behind the Veil” Part 9

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(3/20/22)

Find this weeks’ sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

In our study in John’s Gospel, we have come to Chapter 17 and what many scholars and commentators call the *“High Priestly Prayer of Jesus.”*

This prayer is divided up into 3 main parts:

Jesus Prays for Himself—verses 1-5

Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19

Jesus Prays for All Believers—verses 20-26

We are currently in the second main part of this prayer—*“Jesus Prays for His Disciples.”*—which covers verses 6-19.

II. Jesus Prays for His Disciples—verses 6-19

This prayer by Jesus for His disciples in verses 6-19 can be divided this way:

A. Identification—verse 6

B. Revelation—verses 7-8

C. Supplication—verses 9-13

D. Separation—verses 14-16

E. Sanctification—verses 17-19

Last week, we started looking at the third part of this section of Jesus’ prayer:

C. Supplication—verses 9-13

Again, let’s look at what Jesus was burdened about for His disciples on the night before His crucifixion that caused Him to intercede for them to His Father with such passion and concern.

John 17:9 (NKJV)

⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me...

Notice:

- **Jesus didn’t pray for the world - the world referring to this fallen world system that is controlled by Satan and is in rebellion against God and the people of God. (John 15:18-19)**
- **Jesus never prayed for this fallen world system to be saved or spared from coming judgment.**

It is true that Jesus loves the people of this fallen world system and proved it by going to the Cross to die for them (for all mankind). Jesus wants to see lost sinners get saved and escape the judgment that is coming upon the world—that was the main reason He came to earth in the first place—**“To seek and to save those who are lost.”** (Luke 19:10)

It seems that He prays for the lost—as He demonstrated from the cross when He prayed to His Father for those who put Him on that cross—*“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”* (Luke 23:34)

REFLECTION: Jesus prayed for the disciples; why do you suppose Jesus did not pray for the world?

But here in John 17, **Jesus as our Great High Priest is praying for the people of God.**

➔ Talk about the Breastplate of the High Priest and the precious stones on the front and on the shoulders one for each of the 12 Tribes that he wore before the Lord.

John 17:9-10 (NKJV)

⁹ I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

How is Jesus glorified in us who are His disciples (all Christians are disciples of Christ)?

1. **Jesus is glorified in us—by saving us.**

Charles Spurgeon—

“When the Lord lays hold upon a drunkard, a thief, an adulterer, when he arrests one who has been guilty of blasphemy, whose very heart is reeking with evil thoughts, when he picks up the far-off one, the abandoned, the dissolute, the fallen, as he often does, and when he says, ‘These shall be mine; I will wash these in my blood; I will use these to speak my word,’ oh, then, he is glorified in them! Read the lives of many great sinners who have afterwards become great saints, and you will see how they have tried to glorify him, not only she who washed his feet with her tears, but many another like her. Oh, how they have loved to praise him! Eyes have wept tears, lips have spoken words, but hearts have felt what neither eyes nor lips could speak, of adoring gratitude to Him.”

Here’s the thing about the world:

- Satan has engineered it to appeal to everything our *flesh* (our fallen nature) craves—(1 John 2:15-16)
- Satan as ***the god of this world*** has orchestrated this world in such a way that he gets people to think that everything they want in life, everything that will make life wonderful and fulfilling and meaningful and happy is found in the things the world is offering.

- What the devil doesn't tell people is—yes, “vanity fair” (the world and its allurements—i.e., ‘sin’) does bring pleasure (if it didn't there would be no temptation)—**but as God's Word goes on to say, that “pleasure” is short lived and will grind the life out of you figuratively and literally.**

REFLECTION: Jesus is glorified in us by saving us – how so?

➔ Look at the story of the Prodigal Son...

After the world puts a person thru it's 'meatgrinder' it spits them out onto the 'refuse heap' of humanity—the garbage dump where the lost, the broken and the abandoned are left to die.

This is where alcoholics, drug addicts, prostitutes, porn-stars and a variety of sinners that thought the world with all of its 'charms' held the secret to an exciting and fulfilling life—this is where so many wind up—spent, exhausted, broken and alone.

But, this is also where Jesus comes in—the ultimate “junk” collector.

It is Jesus thru the power of the Holy Spirit Who takes those the world has written off and thrown away as hopeless lost causes, as those who are nothing more than worthless losers—and He reclaims them and remakes their lives into something beautiful and powerful and useful for His glory.

The Mel Trotter Story

“From the time I began going to school, it was easy for me to make friends. This caught the eyes of some who began to groom me with political ambitions in mind. Soon, what had started as rather innocent affairs, began to turn into social events including the social drink and all that goes with it. It wasn't long before the social drink was not reserved for special occasions, but became a morning, noon and night experience. The virtues I had been noted for began to disappear as steam does when it hits cold air. My ambitious political friends left first. They couldn't have faith in a young lush - even if they had been the ones who started me drinking. I went from one job to another and from one place to live to another, and each time both the job and apartment became less desirable.

One day found me in Chicago living in a rat-infested cellar apartment in the worst section in the city. Why my wife stayed with me only God knows, for the pain and suffering I caused her cannot be described.

One day our little child was taken seriously ill. A faithful doctor came even though he knew there would be no payment for his call. After diagnosing the case, he reached into his own pocket, took out some money and thrust it into my hands, shouting, "Mel, run, don't walk, to the drug store which is two blocks from here - here's the prescription. Come right back. It might even now be too late - so hurry!"

I climbed the stairs and was out on to the pavement. I looked to my left and sure enough I saw a drug store

about two blocks away, but then I looked to my right and saw that the saloon was only one-half block away. A sudden desire came over me - one that drove all thought of my sick child out of my head. Even the fact that the money in my hand did not belong to me was erased as I blindly rushed to the bar and shouted, "Let's all drink - it's on me!" Soon the doctor's money was gone and then some other fool threw his money on the bar and we continued on and on through the day and into the night. When it was time to close I was so far gone that the saloon keeper just threw me into the back room to "sleep it off." When he came back the next day, I was still there and it wasn't until the night began to approach that I came enough to my senses to decide to go home.

When I arrived back, I slowly descended the rickety stairs. I saw that someone was talking very quietly to my wife and they were crying. I still did not know why and was still too far gone to have understood. There had been no furniture before, but now there was a little box on a stand. I wondered what it could be. As I went over and looked into the box I saw that it was the body of my little child, but looking very different. Someone had put on her clean clothes, new clothes and somehow there was even a pair of brand new little shoes. Still I didn't get the message. As I stood there that urge came over me. I craved another drink. What I wouldn't do for another drink! As the urge overwhelmed me, I hurriedly slipped the new shoes from the cold feet of my precious child, rammed them into my pocket - as yet I had not attracted the attention of my wife and the woman with her - I stole out of the apartment and I sold those little shoes for a few pennies and bought another drink. I had gone down so low that I have often said that I had to reach up to touch bottom.

With all of this, I was not awakened to reality, until one day, after some debauchery, I decided to end it all. With me gone, I reasoned that the world would be a lot better off, especially my wife.

With this in mind, I headed for Lake Michigan to drown myself. It had gotten dark and cold and, as I wove down a street that would take me to the lake, I was suddenly given a push by someone who said: "Why don't you go in there Bud? It's nice and warm."

As I went through the open door, someone set me in a chair. It all happened so quickly that it took my muddled brain a little while to realize that I was in a room filled with men and a man was speaking. He was talking as if he knew all about me as he said: "Perhaps you have come in here tonight and you haven't even planned it - in fact you had decided that you're going to end it all - for you feel that no one understands you, no one cares, and there is no hope. My friend, I'm here to tell you there is someone who understands you, there is someone who cares for you, and I can tell you that there is hope for you. You will find all of your answers when you come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as your personal Savior. He not only wants to save you from your mess, but wants to go with you the rest of your life, to keep you from getting into any more trouble. "

The speaker was Harry Monroe and the place was the [Pacific Garden Mission](#). I became a different person that night. God saved me and made me a new man. My wife got a new husband the part with its sin and stain was washed away and I found a brand-new tomorrow."

Mel Trotter went on to become a preacher of the same message that saved his soul and changed his life - the message that JESUS CHRIST ALONE SAVES. He saw many hundreds come to put their trust in the only One who has the remedy for broken hearts, and broken homes...broken by sin. He went on to found 'Mel Trotter Ministries' which is still helping lost and broken people break free of Satan's power to live lives that glorify the Lord Jesus Christ—you can visit them on the web at: <http://www.meltrotter.org>

➤ **So, first of all how do we glorify Jesus? by getting saved and living a transformed life.**

2. **Jesus is glorified in us—by our trusting Him in this life.**

One of my favorite Bible teachers was Donald Grey Barnhouse.

“One day Barnhouse was talking to a man about the Gospel. The man said to him in the course of the conversation, ‘*But what does God want. Just tell me, what does God want?*’

Barnhouse said the Holy Spirit immediately spoke to his heart and gave him the answer to that man’s question—‘*What God wants most in all the world is to be believed. He wants to be trusted.*’”

That statement not only applies to unbelievers who need to be saved—it also applies to believers—to those who are *already* saved.

The Bible says that ‘*the just shall live by faith*’ - which speaks of everyday, moment by moment trust in God’s Person, in His promises and in His power.

Hebrews 11:6 (NLT2)

⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely [earnestly] seek Him.

Now of course we read that verse and assume that it only applies to an unsaved person—to someone who needs to put their faith in Jesus and be saved because only then can they ever hope to please God with their life.

➤ But actually, Hebrews 11 deals with the faith of *believers*—that’s why it’s often called **‘*the great hall of faith*’ Chapter!**

And in fact, the whole context of that statement is:

Hebrews 11:5-6 (NLT2)

⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

So, verse 6 is also geared towards those who are *already* believer’s—**and is telling us that the only way a believer can continue to please God is by constantly trusting Him in every area of our lives—everyday of our lives!**

Romans 1:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith [at every level of our spiritual development as we continue to trust God in every trial and circumstance]; as it is written, “*The just shall live by faith.*”

One author put it well—

“Do you believe Him? Do you trust Him? Do you live as though you really trust this God who sent Jesus Christ to be your Savior? Do you trust the Savior Himself? You do not trust Him if you complain about circumstances. You do not trust Him if you always worry about the future. You do not trust Him if you are fretting over small disappointments every day. On the contrary, you trust Him and thus glorify the Lord when you say, ‘I am His, and I will go His way. I am glad to let Him have His way with me whatever the circumstances, whatever the sorrow.’”

REFLECTION: When we trust Jesus, He is glorified in us – give examples of how you have fully trusted Jesus.

*"they do not rest day or night, saying:
"Holy, Holy, Holy -
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!"*

REVELATION 4:8

So, once again—how is Jesus glorified in us?

1. Jesus is glorified in us—**by saving us.**
2. Jesus is glorified in us—**by our trusting Him in this life.**
3. Jesus is glorified in us—**when we live a holy life.**

➤ **Do you realize that 'holiness' is the attribute of God most mentioned in the pages of Scripture?**

If you were to ask the average Christian, "What is the attribute of God mentioned most in the Bible?" they would no doubt answer 'love'—but that is incorrect.

To be sure, God's love is a wonderful attribute—all the more wonderful because we do not deserve it.

There is nothing in us that could possibly cause God to love us—yet He does love us: "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) And so, **the love of God is an awesome attribute that we so appreciate and praise Him for—but as wonderful as God's love is—it is not the attribute of God most mentioned in the Bible.**

➤ **The attribute most mentioned is holiness**—we see a glimpse of this in Revelation 4—

Revelation 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"*

Notice they don't say, "Love, love, love" or "Grace, grace, grace"—they say, "Holy, holy, holy..."

If there is one attribute that describes God more than any other, it is His *holiness*—but what is it?

One author defined God’s holiness this way—

“God’s holiness is His utter and complete separation from evil in any and every form. He is absolutely untainted by any evil, error, or wrongdoing—unlike angels (some of whom sinned) or humans (all of whom sinned).”

You say, *“Is holiness something that is important to God for our lives as His people?”*

1 Peter 1:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, *as* in your ignorance; ¹⁵ but as He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, *“Be holy, for I am holy.”*

Hebrews 12:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

For us holiness doesn’t mean moral perfection (unless you’re talking about our ‘position’ in Christ) - it means separation from the world (the fallen world system) and the world’s attitudes, ‘values’ and our fallen nature’s desires.

1 John 2:15-17 (NLT2)

¹⁵ Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. ¹⁶ For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. ¹⁷ And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God [*i.e.*, *‘the will of God’*] will live forever.

So, if we are going to bring the most glory to Jesus as His disciples—we must, thru the power of the Holy Spirit, live lives of holiness.

One writer said—

“If we live in spiritual adultery, compromising with the values of our society, if the priorities of our non-Christian culture become our priorities, we are not living in a way that glorifies Him. But if, by contrast, the priorities of the Word of God seize upon us and we strive for holiness in our lives, then we do glorify Him.”

One passage that defines holy living in terms of sexual purity—

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 (NLT2)

¹ Finally, dear brothers and sisters, we urge you in the name of the Lord Jesus to live in a way that pleases God, as we have taught you. You live this way already, and we encourage you to do so even more. ² For you remember what we taught you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. ³ God’s will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. ⁴ Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor— ⁵ not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. ⁶ Never harm or cheat a Christian brother in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. ⁷ God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

REFLECTION: Jesus is glorified when we live “holy” lives. What does “holiness” mean to you? How can you live a holy life in this fallen world?

Now, let me say that because 'holiness' is an attribute of God's character (it is found in His nature alone)—that means that living a life of holiness can only be done by a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit within us.

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NKJV)

¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Talk about the Andrew Murray book, "Abide in Christ."

In the Chapter, "Through the Holy Spirit", Murray had this to say,

"The anointing that you received from Him abides in you. But as His anointing teaches you about everything and is true and is no lie just as it has taught you abide in Him" (1 John 2:27).

Treat this teaching as a spiritual practice. Remind yourself regularly that as surely as you are in Christ, the Holy Spirit is in you. He will do is work in you with power as you believe in His presence and submit to His ministry. Even when you cannot discern His work in you, make it a practice to affirm your belief that He is in fact working in you. Ask the Father to aid your belief, remembering that it is impossible to abide in Christ as a way of life without being full of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit's fullness in you was in fact your daily portion, the guarantee of the fuller reality of your relationship with God."

In other words, since holiness is an attribute of God's holy nature—the only way we can know it and walk in it is if it is planted within us by the Spirit of God.

Holiness

In 2 Peter, Chapter 1 verse 4, Peter tells us that when we received Jesus into our hearts by faith and were saved—at that moment, the Holy Spirit came to live inside of us and we became partakers of His divine nature.

Romans 5:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The same is true with all the attributes of God—especially holiness—and yet, for these attributes to take root in us and grow into the fruit of the Holy Spirit—we must abide in Christ by faith...

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).