

**Easter 7**  
**May 8, 2016**  
**Mother's Day**

*"Jesus Prays for Us"*

**JOHN 17:20-26**

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*My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup> that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. <sup>24</sup> "Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. <sup>25</sup> "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

What a blessing it is to be part of a Christian congregation where people pray for one another. What a blessing it is to be part of a Christian family where mothers and fathers pray for their children, and children pray for their parents. What a blessing it is to have husbands and wives who remember each other in their prayers. How thankful we are when we have people praying for us when we are going through times of trouble.

In the words we just read to you we hear our Lord Jesus praying for us. Did you hear your name mentioned? Sure you did. Jesus prayed, "I pray for those who will believe in me through their message." That's referring to people like you and me who will believe in Jesus through the message of the disciples that has been preserved and kept for us on the pages of the Bible. Here is Jesus about to suffer terribly on the cross for our sin and what does he do? He prays for you and me and all those who will believe in him. He prays that we might be one with him and the Father, and he prays that we might see his glory.

**Jesus prays that we might be one with him and the Father**

As Jesus prays for us he sees the message of the gospel preserved until the end of the world and bringing people to be one with him and the Father. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." The number one best-selling book in all the world is the Bible. All over the world people are reading their Bibles or listening to it on electronic devices. The message of the gospel is being preserved in all parts of the world just as Jesus said in Matthew 24:14, "And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."

Jesus sees all these people coming to faith and becoming one with him and the Father. We know that there is only one God, and the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. When you are brought to faith in Jesus, you become one with Christ and one with the Father

and one with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that he is the vine and we are the branches. He is bridegroom and we are his bride. He is the Shepherd and we are his sheep. He is the head and we are his body. God is our heavenly Father and we are his dear children. That is what it means to be one with Jesus and one with the Father.

Earlier in this prayer Jesus prayed for his disciples. "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name-the name you gave me-so that they may be one as we are one." These words certainly apply to us. Jesus has gone to be with his heavenly Father. We are still in this world with all of its problems and troubles. Jesus pleads with his Father to protect us and keep us one with him and the Father.

To illustrate what Jesus has done to make us one with him and the Father I am holding in my hand two little magnets. If I put try to put them together one way, they will repel each other. However if I put them together the opposite way they will stick tight to each other. The Lord has led you to repentance. Your sin separates you from God and God by his very nature as God must reject you and repel you. But then in his mercy he removes you sin through Jesus, and turns you around in trust in your Savior for the full removal of every sin every committed. As a result you are now one with God, united with him, cherish by him, his dear child in this life and for all eternity.

When you are one with Jesus and the Father that begins to show itself to the world in the way you live your life. Jesus prayed, "May they also be in us so that the world my believe that you sent me." So Christian mothers and dads live each day filled with joy that they are so close to Jesus and their heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit. The children see this in their parents and they want the same in their lives. With all my heart and with every fiber of my being I want to have the closeness my mother and father had with Jesus especially in the latter years of life as their health was failing. I want to have this closeness to the Lord that I have seen in the lives of the many Christians I have come to know and love. I want the whole world to see me living each day as dear child of my heavenly Father, a lamb in the arms of Jesus' my Shepherd, a beautiful bride in his loving arms, a member of his glorious church with him as the head. We want people all over the world to say, "I want what they have."

How do you become even closer to Jesus and your heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit? Jesus has the answer to this in what he prays for you in verses 25 and 26. "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself will be in them." Here Jesus tells his heavenly Father what he is going to be doing for his disciples and fpryou and me. He is going to make his Father known to us. Jesus prayed this amazing prayer in John 17 and had it recorded for us in the Bible through the work of the Holy Spirit so he could make the Father known to us and we could realize how close we are to him.

Let me show you how this happens in real life with a profound experience in my life related to this chapter. It happened in September of 1971. I was living in Phoenix during my year of internship. The supervising pastor gave me my first visit to make on a homebound person who was not able to make it to church. It was a very hot day. Mr. Goetch was on oxygen. He could hardly breathe because of emphysema. I introduced myself and shortly

after that he said, "Can I read to you from John 17?" He read and then commented. Read and then committed relying on his oxygen to read more. I left the room that day almost shaking with joy, the joy that comes when Jesus reveals to us just how much he loves us and how much our heavenly Father loves us. If I am dying, read to me from Isaiah 53 and read to me from Romans 8 and read to me from John 17.

### **Jesus prays that we might see his glory**

And now we listen as Jesus prays that we might see his glory. "Father, I want those you have given me, to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world." Jesus pours out his heart to his heavenly Father and tells his Father how much he longs and desires and yearns that we might be with him and see his glory. He wants us to see the glory that he had with his Father from all eternity. Earlier in this prayer Jesus prayed, "And now Father glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world began."

It is hard for us to imagine the glory and the love that Jesus and his heavenly Father had from all eternity before the world was created. On this Mother's Day we think of the love that our mothers had for us. We think of the mother holding her newborn in her arms. We think of the mothers who sacrificed themselves for the children and all the prayers they prayed. Children are sending flowers to their mothers, cards and gifts and calling them on the phone. As close as mothers are to their children, it does not begin to compare to how close Jesus was to his heavenly Father. Someday we will be with Jesus in that glory and experience the glory he had with his Father.

In 1 Corinthians 2 we read, "No eye has seen no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him." Then it goes on to say, "but God has revealed it us by his Spirit." I think of the words Luella Bestul once said in one of our Bible classes. "How is it that we can have such a longing for a place that we have not seen?" With the eyes of faith we believe Jesus will let us see his glory.

The epistle of John tells us, "Dear friends, we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." The story is told that when this verse was being translated into a native language of the people living on a South Sea island the native translator told the missionary, "Here is a word for this translation that means, 'We shall kiss his feet.' Certain we cannot see him as he is." The missionary responded, "No translate it as it is, 'We shall see him face to face.'" Heaven is described as "our hope of glory." I know we will find glory in the place Jesus has prepared for us, unbelievable beauty in a new heaven and a new earth. I know that we will find glory in our new home of righteousness where there will be no more sin. I know we will find glory in a place where God will wipe away all tears from our eyes. Our greatest glory will be there with Jesus and the Father and the Holy Spirit experiencing their glory.

There was a little blind girl who knew of the beauties of this world in which we live only from the lips of her mother. A noted surgeon performed a series of operations on her sightless eyes that allowed her to see for the first time. When the final bandages were removed, the little girl ran into her mother's loving arms. Then she ran to the window and

turned back and ran again into her mother's arms. "Oh, mother, why didn't you tell me you were so beautiful and the world was so wonderful." And her mother said with tears of joy in her eyes, "I tried, oh how I tried, but now you can see!"

And you know heaven will be something like this. We will look at one another in overwhelming joy and say, "I never realized how beautiful this would be and how special it would be to see Jesus in all his glory." Today we have heard Jesus pray for us. Oh, treasure this prayer of Jesus. He prays that you might be one with him and the Father. He prays that you might share in his glory. Amen.