

The Beautiful Plan

John 17:1-19

Upper Room Discourse

- » Jesus switches from the mode of discussion to one of prayer
- » Jesus' high priestly prayer (longest prayer in the New Testament)
- » In this prayer Jesus reveals his inner self

The Word became one of us to reveal the face and heart of God and to lead us all into a loving communion with the Father.

Jean Vanier

I. Jesus Prays for Himself: Key Focus is Glory (v1-5)

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority

over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

John 17:1-3

Jesus Begins to Pray

- » Looks up to heaven (v1) – focus on God
- » Begins prayer with 'Abba' – Greek Pater/Father
- » A Name of intimacy/belonging
- » Paul invites us to use the same (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15)

The hour has come (v1)

- » Code word for the cross
- » Connected to a revelation of glory of both Son and Father
- » The invisible God is seen in Jesus glory
- » Finds its peak in the cross

“Glory of God” is a technical expression referring to God’s eternal mode of existence that becomes visible at strategic moments in the plan of salvation.

Kevin Quast

Shared Glory

- » This glory is shared with those who are receptive to the truth
- » The sharing = receiving eternal life (v3)
- » Receiving eternal life is not about information but about entering a relationship with Father and Son

- » This eternal life begins now (not just future)
- » A quality of living not just quantity – the quality of knowing God

II. Jesus Prays for His Friends/Disciples (v6-19)

‘I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that

everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

John 16:6-8

Made Your Name Known

- » I have made your name known to those you gave me (v6)
- » Your name = the character of Abba
- » The focus is on the disciples – those he has trained for 3 years

Believed and Known

- » They have believed and known you (v8)
- » A link to real engagement – not just ideas

I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

John 17:9

Not a Prayer for the World

- » In contrast – Jesus is not praying for the world (v9)
- » The world represents all that is opposed to God

The world in the gospel of John has two meanings: it is the cosmos, the universe, our “inhabited” earth, loved by God. It also means the place of the absence of God, where love is not present and is even feared.

This void of absence becomes indifference to others, fear of them, a refusal to share with others. It can become blatant selfishness, hate, greed and lies, people locked up in their ideologies and illusions.

This absence is in a part of each culture and in a part of each one of our hearts. This absence can be manipulated and filled with evil forces or filled by God.

Jean Vanier

The World

- » The world hates the truth – see v14,15
- » Jesus prays for their protection as they are in the world

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

John 17:17-18

III. Sanctify – Set Apart

- » May they be set apart for their mission (v17) – inspired, motivated, protected
- » To engage in their mission as “sent ones” (v18)

- » Not to live in isolation
- » Be in the world and engaging their mission
- » So that the world might believe (v21)

Six Characteristics of Being Sent

1. Each day we must receive our mission – not a once-for-all experience
2. It is a relationship between the Sender and the sent ones – flows out of relationship

3. Mission requires abandonment; a willingness to follow
- » We obey the sender
 - » Even in new directions
 - » Not about our convenience or comfort

4. To be a sent one is to be a loved one – see similarity of texts:
- » “As you (Father) sent me so I send you” (John 17:18)
 - » “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you” (John 15:9)

5. Mission means we are not self-sufficient
- » We must rely on the Sender
 - » Dependence upon the Spirit

6. Mission is about bearing fruit
- » Which is encapsulated in living in love
 - » Demonstrating love for the world

The Purpose of Jesus' Prayer

- » That Jesus and the Father will be glorified
- » That we as disciples will share in God's glory (eternal life)
- » That we will be the face of Jesus to the world so that others might also know life