



SERIES: John Believe
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Monday, April 24, 2023
Scripture: John 17:20-21
TITLE: Did Jesus Pray for You?

Did Jesus ever pray for you? If so, what did He pray about? Well, I have the answers for you from John 17:20-21.

Jesus prayed, "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

John 17 contains what some Bibles call the "High Priestly Prayer." Jesus is praying for His disciples, and now it appears He is praying for us today.

In verse 20, Jesus says, "I do not ask for these only." Jesus has been specifically praying for the disciples. He has recognized that God has called them. They do not come on their own accord. After all, Paul would declare that no one seeks after God (Romans 3). And now that they are called, they are to remain on earth as Jesus will depart for heaven after His death, burial, and resurrection.

In verses 17-19, Jesus asked God to "sanctify them in your truth; your word is truth." We are a sanctified people. We are "set apart" for the glory of God. We are set apart from the world to become more and more like Christ. This happens at the power of the Spirit through the engagement of God's Word – the Word of truth.

And here, Jesus shifts from praying for His immediate disciples to all disciples who would follow. That's you. That's me. That's anyone before us and after us. Yes, Jesus prayed for us.

And what was that prayer? Jesus says, "That they may all be one, just as you, Father are in me, and I in you..." (John 17:21). One of the scandalous and even unpopular truths of the Gospel is it rejects prejudice and favoritism. Jesus doesn't care about your skin color, your economic status, your last name, your worldview of choice, or your past sins.

By grace through faith, He saves anyone who believes who is called. This calling removes our sins and unifies us as the family of God. This isn't the message the world wants to hear. The world wants to destroy unity and harmony among people and the people of God.

But as Paul wrote in Ephesians 4 he clarifies and solidifies this unity. Paul writes,

"There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He came to rescue us from the world and our sins. He makes us part of His family. We are one. Yes, we are all different in many ways, but at our core, who we are, is the same. We are the body of Christ.

Why did Jesus pray this? He says in verse 21, "...so that the world may believe that you have sent me" (John 17:21).

While the world is forcing issues of race, equality, inclusion, equity, and so on, Jesus offers true peace with God and each other. Jesus offers a way out of the performance-based system of the world. Jesus provides an end to racism and prejudice. He offers us unity and peace with God and man.

If you want the world to see the difference Christ makes in your life, live out this truth. Jesus prayed for it. Let's be the answer to that prayer.