

## Prayer.

### John 17:9 – I am Praying for them.

#### John 17.1 -26.

##### Introduction.

Several weeks ago, at the commencement of our prayer month senior Pastor Grahame mentioned that his, “nerd personality or propensities draw him to analysing and collating data. From that data Pastor Grahame collated Jesus prayed 25 prayers which are outlined in the gospels”. I can relate to Pastor Grahame’s nerd propensities or personality because I also possess those nerd qualities.

Allow me to digress. I will never forget in my first year as a senior student at High School I was appointed Student Head Librarian. My two older siblings disowned me and instructed that I do three things, one change my surname and never walk with them and never travel in the same bus. Of course, I never complied with any of their instructions. All this sibling disowner ship, because I was considered in their view a nerd unlike them, Prefects, sports captains, and senior academics.

Allow me to continue my nerd like propensities about John 17.

1. It is sometimes referred to as The High Priestly Prayer. The High Priest status has its impetus or beginnings in Exodus 29:9.
2. It is our Lord Jesus longest prayer.
3. It has 26 verses.
4. It has 500 words depending on the version you are reading.
5. Here a list of some of the theological themes John 17 mentions.
  - a. **Security – John 17:11 and 15.**
  - b. **Maturity – John 17:17.**
  - c. **Ministry – John 17:18.**
  - d. **Unity – John 17: 20 and 21,**
  - e. **Destiny – John 17:24** and I will touch on more of these themes later.

#### A. John 17:9 – Jesus Prays for Us.

**I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.**

It is this Jesus that the apostle John in John 17:9 records and recites **I PRAY FOR THEM**, or as other bible versions would put it, **I AM PRAYING FOR THEM, IT IS FOR THEM THAT I PRAY, or I AM ASKING ON THEIR BEHALF**. No matter what version is tendered, **JESUS IS PRAYING FOR US**.

#### Who is this Jesus that prays for us?

1. **Jesus touched the leper. Matthew 8:3** and Jesus put forth his hand and touched him.
2. **Jesus healed the sick. Matthew 9:35** And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.
3. **Jesus befriended the social outcast / racial enemies. Luke 10:30 – 37.** Well known biblical narrative / story of The Good Samaritan.
4. **Jesus blesses children. Mark 10:13 – 16.** let the children come to me, and don’t hinder them. For the Kingdom- 20 of God belongs to such as these.

5. **Jesus heals the woman. Matt 9:20 – 22. Also recorded in Mark 5 and Luke 8**
6. **At His own death, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing. Luke 23:34.**
7. **Jesus awakes and raises those from the dead. John 11:45.** The story of Lazarus.
8. **Jesus died - Luke 23:46, resurrection – 23:6-7 and ascended – Luke 24:51.**
9. **Jesus is Lord. Romans 10:8.**
10. **Jesus is our Saviour. 1 John 4:14.**
11. **He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God. Col 1:15.**
12. **He (Jesus) is at God’s right hand. 1 Peter 3:22** ... with angels, authorities, and powers in submission to him.
13. **Cast all your cares upon him, He (Jesus) cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7.**
14. **He (Jesus) is seated at the right hand of the Father. 1 Peter 3:22**, where Jesus is paying for us. Romans 8:31b...if God is for us who can be against us? And Romans 8:34b...is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us and of course that wonderful passage that I think climaxes with Romans 8:35...who shall separate us from the love of God - nothing can separate us from the love God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
These fourteen points that I have raised about who Jesus, gives profound insight about the very ministry of Jesus. He crossed all barriers, whether it was gender, age, race and social status.

#### **IT IS THIS JESUS THAT PRAYS FOR US.**

#### **B. John 17:11 and 15 - Jesus’ care about our Security.**

**Verse 11.** 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.

**Verse 15.** My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.

Here in verses **eleven and fifteen**, Jesus opens the door regarding our physical security is ensuring that we are free from danger and threat. Jesus is concerned about our security.

**Here in verse 11**, Jesus is stating that he will be absent from the world because he is joining his Father, but continues to say, unlike them (referring to us) they will remain in this world and in my absence, Father, protect them, please ensure they are safe and secure. They are free from danger and from threat as they continue to live in this world. Our physical security is a priority for Jesus as he continues to pray for us.

**Verse 15**, Jesus opens door regarding our spiritual security. Jesus has addressed our physical security in verse 11 and now in verse 15 he addresses our spiritual security. ...That you protect them from the evil one... To protect them, conveys this message of guarding and watching over them. He is seated at the right hand of the Father and watching over us, he is protecting our spiritual security – **1 Peter 3:22**.

Protect us from the evil one, the devil walks around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (**1 Peter 5:8**). We are reminded in **Psalms 121:3 – 8**. God never sleeps nor slumbers for he watches over us both night and day.

We are reminded that the evil one is the voice of the accuser, he wants to destroy our reputation and influence for Jesus and get us to make wrong decisions. The evil one wants to destroy our testimony about Jesus.

I think **Luke 22:31 – 32** conveys this message of the evil one, whose character is premised around violating and breaching our spiritual security.

Reading from **Luke 22:31-32** **“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”**

1. Satan singled out Peter out, (just like he did with Job. (**Job 1:6 – 22**), but the next verse goes on to say, “But I have prayed for you.” He was praying that his faith would not fail him.

A few sideline comments, this Simon Peter, had an interesting perspective of his relationship with Jesus.

- a. **John 18:10** Peter defends the Lord, sever the right ear of the servant Malchus.
- b. **John 18:25** Peter denies his knowledge and connection of and with Jesus three times.
- c. **John 21:15** Jesus says to Peter, Follow me.

Satan asked to sift Peter like wheat. Like Job, God gave permission for Satan to afflict Jobs body but to kill him. God allowed the evil one to sift Peter like wheat, BUT Peter did not fall through the sieve. Peter’s faith did not fail him. Jesus prays for us;

- a. Jesus has our back.
- b. Jesus has our totality in His security net.
- c. It appears that odds were stacked against Peter.
- d. It appears that Peter was a failure.

**JESUS PRAYS US THROUGH OUR FAILURES.**

Let add this important (p.s) postscript.

**WE ARE NOT FAILURES BUT AS FRAIL HUMAN BEINGS WE FAIL.**

**WHEN WE FAIL JESUS IS PRAYING FOR US.**

**WHEN WE SUCCEED JESUS IS PRAYING FOR US.**

**C. John 17:17 Jesus is praying for our Maturity.**

**Sanctify them by the truth: your word is truth.**

Sanctify – To make holy. Jesus is praying for our sanctification. Jesus is praying for us to be a Holy. **Deuteronomy 14:2 You have been set apart as holy to the LORD your God.** To be good people

Jesus prays for our maturity, to be sanctified, to be holy, to be Christ like.

How does Jesus sanctify us, how does Jesus make us holy, how does Jesus make us more Christ like. **It is by the truth, YOUR WORD HIS TRUTH.**

**We must allow the Word of God, to bed itself into our hearts.**

**The word of God must take root in our lives.**

**It must bring change:**

- a. **To our thoughts.**
- b. **To our actions.**

- c. **To our habits**
- d. **To our character.**
- e. **To our destiny and these ongoing changes become a sign of growth of ongoing maturity.**
- f. **Jesus to change us inside and out – Internal and external.**

#### **JESUS PRAYS FOR OUR MATURITY.**

**The word of God must find a place of residence in our hearts and not just pass through our minds on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings or mid-week gathering. Once the Word of God finds residence in our hearts this allows Jesus to become president our hearts.**

#### **JESUS PRAYS FOR OUR MINISTRY.**

#### **D. John 17:18. Jesus is praying for your Ministry.**

**As you have sent me into the world. I have sent them into the world.**

1. The very character of Jesus is to pray. While he was on earth he prayed and now he is seated at the right hand of the Father, Jesus continues to pray. It is that prayerful characteristic that Jesus desires we all have.
  - a. **Verse 18** here we see successive planning of the gospel. From the God the Father to God the Son, to his disciples. You have sent me and I now I send them. Allow me to put it this way:
    - i. **Jesus became a missionary – sent from the Father.**
    - ii. **To seek and save the lost – Mission from the Father.**
    - iii. **Just as you sent me, I have sent them into the world.**
    - iv. **We become missionaries – sent from Jesus.**
    - v. **To seek and save the lost – Mission from Jesus.**
    - vi. **Jesus is praying for our Ministry.**

No matter what your ministry is Jesus is praying for you. Your ministry may be your contribution to our church life – it may include, handing out the offering bags, greeting people at the doors, setting up the communion tables, preparing morning teas, doing sausage sizzles, church cleaning, church maintenance, praying for people whenever and wherever you are, MTL, worship team, technicians, office staff. Some of you may have a ministry outside of our church or may and very well include your regular day to day job.

#### **JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOUR MINISTRY.**

#### **E. John 20 and 21. Jesus is praying for Unity.**

**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. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.**

In this verse this Jesus is not only praying for his disciples, but He is also praying for those who will believe in Him. Jesus pray is not exclusive , but inclusive of believers, because of hearing the proclamation of his message.

The next portion of verse 20 is the use of the words ...who will believe in me, there is confidence and assuredness, this boldness of faith, for those who will be in me through their message.

Here through out these two verses, Jesus places an emphasis on **togetherness, unity, and oneness** just as He and His Father are one.

a. **1 Corinthians 12:12 – 13. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, from one body, so it is with Christ. For we were baptized by one Spirit to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one spirit to drink.**

b.

**When you stub your toe the whole-body bends down to help comfort and relieve any pain.**

c. **Ephesians 1:22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church.**

**JESUS IS PRAYING FOR OUR UNITY.  
JESUS IS PRAYING FOR OUR UNITY IN THE CHURCH.**

F. **John 17:24 Jesus is praying for your Destiny.**

**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.**

Plain simple language, absolutely no confusion, Jesus wants us to be with him. This prayer statement is uttered earlier by Jesus in **John 14:2 – 3.**

**John 14:2 -3. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am there you may be also.**

Our destiny is to spend eternity with our Father in heaven

**JOHN 17:9 JESUS IS PRAYING FOR YOU:**

**Security – John 17:11 and 15.**

**Sufficiency – John 17:13.**

**Maturity – John 17:17.**

**Ministry – John 17:18.**

**Unity – John 17: 20 and 21,**