

Holy Father, Keep them in Your Name

John 17:6-12 (page 87 in the black Bibles)

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Introduction:

Last week began our study of what has been called, “The Lord’s High Priestly Prayer.”

We saw last week that in verses 1-5 Jesus really only makes one request which stated two times.

“Father...**glorify Your Son**, that the Son may glorify You.” (v.1)

“Now, Father, **glorify Me together with Yourself** [“in Your own presence” ESV] with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” (v. 5)

The Greek word “didomi” is used 17 times in John 17, translated “give” (1x), “gave” (4x), and “have given” (12x);.

In John 17 we see that there are a number of things that the Father gave to the Son.

1. The Father gave the Son authority over all flesh. (v. 2)

“You gave Him authority over all flesh,”

2. The Father gave the Son a people so that the Son may give them eternal life. (v. 2, 6, 9, 24)

“that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.”

3. The Father gave the Son a work to accomplish. (v. 4)

“I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.”

Verses 6-8 are connected to the work that Jesus is referring to in verse 4.

⁶“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world;

“Manifested” – “to make visible, to make clear, to make known”

See John 1:14, 18; 2:11; 12:45; 14:7-9;

Your name” – God’s character, all that is represented by God’s name. (Exodus 33:18-20; 34:5-7)

“out of the world”-- mankind alienated from God, and therefore hostile to the cause of Christ. (John 1:9-10; 3:16-19; 17:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 4:4)

4. The Father gave the Son His words which the Son gave to His disciples. (vv. 7-8)

⁸for the words which You gave Me I have given to them;

John 12:44-50; 17:20

5. The Father gave the Son His name which the Son made known to the disciples. (vv. 11-12)

See verse 6; John 1:18

Pastor Scott will be preaching on verses 13-26 over the next two weeks.

6. The Father gave the Son glory which the Son has given to His followers (v. 22)

7. The Father has given the Son glory in heaven which the Son wants His followers to see. (v. 24)

Before we look at the request that Jesus makes let’s look at what characterizes those whom the Father has given to the Son.

Believers are characterized as those who respond to the word of God in a positive manner.

“They were Yours and You gave them to Me, (v. 6)

1. They have kept Your word.” (v. 6)

2. They have come to know that everything You have given Me is from You; (v. 7)

John 6:66-69; 16:30

“The words which You gave Me, I have given to them” (v. 8)

3. They received *them* (v. 8)

4. They truly understood that I came forth from You, (v. 8)

5. **They believed that You sent Me.** (v. 8) “sent” is used 7 times in John 17; (vv. 3, 8, 18 (2x), 21, 23, 25)

Just as there is only one request in verses 1-5 there is also only one request mentioned in verses 6-12. That one request is found in verse 11, “Holy Father, keep them in Your name...that they may be one even as We are one.” (See also v. 15).

1. Jesus is praying for those whom the Father has given Him.

Jesus makes a distinction between those who are His and those who are of the world. Jesus’ followers are in the world but they are distinct from the world. (John 6:37-40; 10:26-30)

⁹“I ask on their behalf; I do not ask on behalf of the world,
but of those whom You have given Me; for they are Yours;

¹⁰and all things that are Mine are Yours,
and Yours are Mine; and I have been glorified in them.

The reason Jesus is praying for His followers:

¹¹“I am no longer in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world,

Jesus’ Request

“and I come to You. Holy Father,
keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me,

Holy Father – “a title of that combines awesome transcendence with familial intimacy” (cf. Matthew 11:25). But more importantly, it prepares the way for verses 17-19 and the sanctification or consecration of Jesus and His disciples.” (Carson, p. 561)

Leviticus 11:44; 1 Pet. 1:16

“**keep them** in Your name” –“keep, guard, watch over”; keep them steadfast to Your name and all that it represents so that their faith may not fail (Luke 22:32)

The purpose: “that they may be one even as *We are*. “Their unity is the purpose for them being kept.” (Carson)

“One mind/ one accord” Acts 1:14; 4:24; 5:12

A Unity grounded in their common bond in Christ and in a common purpose and mission.

¹²“While I was with them,

I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me;

I guarded them and not one of them perished

John 18:8-9

but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

2 Thess. 2:3 “son of destruction”;

Judas - John 6:70; 13:2, 26-27; Acts 1:15-18, 24-25

Conclusion:

Meditate on and be encouraged by Jesus’ ministry of intercession.

Hebrews 7:25; 4:14-16

Romans 8:33-34