

1. Jesus was about to step out of the light of ministry and fellowship into a place of agonizing pain and agony. (Luke 22:39-46)
2. It is here where we are allowed to see the Chief Shepherd about to embrace the cross and leave His sheep behind.
3. John 17 is known as the “High Priestly” prayer of Jesus.
4. There are approximately 650 prayers recorded in the Bible - but none of them match the openness and intensity of John 17.
5. The veil is pulled back and we find ourselves escorted to the very throne of the Father.
6. In this prayer we find Jesus interceding not only for His own but for the whole world.
7. The prayer is organized into 3 basic sections:
 - A. v1-5 Jesus is praying for Himself.
 - B. v6-19 Jesus prays for His disciples.
 - C. v20-26 Jesus prays for those who would follow after (the church).
8. Throughout all three sections, the focal point is the glory of God - manifested through the cross.
9. In the first section - Jesus begins His prayer by lifting His eyes toward the heavens. (v1)
10. Jesus acknowledged His submission to the will of His father as well as His total dependence on the Father - while at the same time underscoring His equality with God as His Son. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
11. We also see the intimate fellowship that Jesus shared with His Father. This type of relationship with God was totally foreign to the Jews of Jesus’ day. (John 5:18)
12. There is a very important theological truth in this chapter - Jesus is not a mere mode or manifestation of the Father - the Son is a distinct person within the Godhead.
13. Notice the phrase - “the hour is/has come.” The phrase refers to the closing of His earthly ministry leading now to His death, resurrection and ascension. (John 2:4; 7:6,30; 8:20)
14. The theme of God’s glory is seen throughout this passage. (verse 4-5, 10, 22 and 24)
15. In section 2 - verse 6 connects back to verse 4 - making known the Father’s name to the disciples. (verse 6-19)
16. This is nothing less than a statement and claim by Jesus to deity and full equality with the Father.
17. In verse 11 Jesus’ requests for His disciples begins with addressing God as Holy Father. (a title for God that is only found in this verse)

18. The emphasis on the holiness of God sets the stage for verses 11-19.
19. Jesus appealed to the Father to protect and secure the disciples.
20. Guarded by the Father, interceded for by Jesus Christ, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit - these men would provide the solid foundation upon which all believers in the ages to come would stand.
21. Finally - in section 3 - Jesus prays for those who will become believers in the future.
22. Jesus prays for unity in the body. (verses 20-26)
23. Paul spoke of unity in his letter to the church at Ephesus. (Ephesians 4:3-6)
24. The requests made by Jesus in this powerful pray can be summed up in 7 phrases:
 - A. "keep them in your name" (v11)
 - B. "have my joy fulfilled in themselves" (v13)
 - C. "keep them from the evil one" (v15)
 - D. "sanctify them in the truth" (v17)
 - E. "that they may all be one" (v21)
 - F. "that they be with me where I am" (v24)
 - G. "that they may see my glory" (v24)