

Morning Sermon June 9, 2019

“Who does Jesus Pray for?” John 17:6-26

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. John 17:9

I. “the men” Jesus’ Apostles and first disciples –

⁶ “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. John 17:6

When Jesus starts this prayer, He starts by praying for “the men” who God had given Him. There are at least a few things we should know about these men:

1. Jesus had manifested God the Father’s name to them –

6 “I have manifested Your name to the men ...

A. This means Jesus had fulfilled His calling, manifesting the Father’s Name, and glorifying the Father, are pretty much the same thing.

B. Now, God’s Name, His glory is displayed everywhere, even in creation –

¹ **O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Psalm 8:1**

C. Yet, God’s Name was manifest in the most perfect, wonderful way by our Lord Jesus –

¹⁴ **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14**

- Full of grace meant God’s mercy was abundantly obvious in Jesus, in all He said and did!
- Full of truth refers to His teaching, both by His Word and His Life, He taught His disciples about God the Father.

2. These men are “given” men

3. They are given “out of the world” – Election

4. They kept God the Father’s word

Perfectly? No! By God and Christ’s grace? Yes!

5. These men are the Apostles, maybe disciples, including the 70, in contrast to Judas –

¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:12

A. Judas was an apostle, but not truly one whom the Father had “given” to Christ.

B. Judas was / is the “son of perdition” -

A title used twice in the NT, first of Judas Iscariot (John 17:12) and second of the coming antichrist (2 Thess. 2:3). The Greek *apoleia*, “perdition,” means destruction, ruin, or loss. It indicates not extinction of being but destruction of well-being and hence signifies perishing. *Son of perdition*, then, signifies the proper destiny of the one described. Dictionary of Theological Terms A. Cairns

6. These are sent ones –

¹⁸ **As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. John 17:18**

II. Those “given” by the Father to Jesus –

1. Judas was NOT one of the “given” ones –

³⁷ All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹ This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. John 6:37-39

⁷⁰ Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?” ⁷¹ He spoke of Judas Iscariot, *the son* of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve. John 6:70-71

2. The “given” ones, are more than the original disciples, the “given” are all of those who are saved by God’s grace –

²⁰ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.. John 17:20

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. John 17:24

At least six, and probably SEVEN times in this prayer the word “given” or “gave” is used in reference to the people “given” by the Father to the Son - :6 (2), :7; :9; :11; :12; :22

3. What are the characteristics of those who are GIVEN by the FATHER to the Son Jesus?

A. They are given out of the world –

whom You have given Me out of the world ... John 17:6

Out of the world means grace, it means we were, and they were once the same as everyone else who was in this world ruled by Satan –

² And you **He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins, ² in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, ³ among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. Ephesians 2:1-3

Notice these taken “out of the world” are not physically out of the world, at least not immediately –

¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father... John 17:11

Jesus is no longer “in the world” because He is about to die, resurrect and finally ascent to Heaven ... we are still “in the world” physically and Jesus apostles were and would be for a number of years after this prayer, especially John.

B. The “given” ones belong to God and Christ and NOT to the world -

They were Yours, You gave them to Me ... John 17:6

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. John 17:9-10

We belong to Christ because He purchased us with His blood -

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit **who is in you**, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

²⁰ For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We are God the Father’s by Creation, we become the world’s and the Devil’s by sin, and we are Christ’s by redemption, He is ours for salvation –

⁶ Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’” Isaiah 49:6

C. Those who belong to Jesus are hooked by Him and cannot and do not want to get away because they also KNOW HIM –

⁶⁵ And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” ⁶⁶ From that *time* many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?”

⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” John 6:65-69

Those who walked away from Jesus were those who wanted to make Him Fish-burger King, after He fed the five-thousand. They were disappointed when He preached, giving spiritual rather than physical food! However, Peter and the Apostles were hooked on the spiritual food!

Jesus is a Spiritual Fisherman, and He would make us the same –

¹⁹ Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” ²⁰ They immediately left *their* nets and followed Him. Matthew 4:19-20 *Those who truly belong to Jesus, love the spiritual bait!*

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