

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

**A Child of the King**

We have spent the past two quarters sitting at His feet with Jesus' disciples, when He taught His followers in the last few hours of His life as a human being on earth. He first taught them, and then He concluded the evening, just before His arrest, with one of the most wonderful passages in the entire Bible, John 17

Now let's read Jesus' last part of prayer and the conclusion of His last night as human beings on earth.

**John 17:20-26**

*“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 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. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 “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. 25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

I finished last week with John 17:17, let's just read it again.

**John 17:17**

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

**Sanctify them and sanctify them.**

*to cause someone to have the quality of holiness*

*to be set apart for God*

*to make a person the opposite of common*

Oxford Dictionary says "Common" means

*the ordinary or common people, as opposed to the royalty*

A commoner is someone without a title. But we are not. From the moment you choose to believe God and believe that Jesus has come to reconcile us with God, you become a child of God. And that's our title. Our Father is the King, and that makes us royal children. It doesn't make us better than others, that's exactly why Jesus prays for His disciples and us in the last moments.

**John 17:15**

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

We don't belong to the world because Jesus says we belong to God now, but we still live in the world. In other words, as royalty, we live among the common people, the world, the commoners. We are not free from evil and the hardships and bad things of this world. We also get sick, also experience grief, trauma, and pain. Our people are dying too and we are dying too, like any of the royal family. We are also exposed to sin and tempted daily, that is why Jesus prays to keeping us from evil. But we live like someone who is worthy children of the Kings, unlike the rest of the world.

Listen to how Peter describes the position of children of God.

**1 Peter 3:9**

*But you are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood**, a holynation, a people belonging to God.*

That's who we are. Now Jesus is praying.

**John 17:20**

*"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for **those who** will believe in me through their message,*

**Who are the "those who?"**

That's us. Jesus said, *"I pray not only for these disciples here before me, but for those who will be converted by the words concerning Me."* That's all the believers after that. This prayer is for

you and me! It is wonderful to know that Jesus prays for His followers across borders and over centuries.

### **What do they get?**

- **Love to the Max**

#### **John 13:1b**

*Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

#### **John 15:9**

*As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*

- **A place in heaven**

#### **John 14:2-3**

*Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4*

- **The Holy Spirit**

#### **John 14:16-17a**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth.*

#### **John 14:26**

*But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*

- **Godly Peace**

#### **John 14:27a**

*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.*

- **Hate of the world**

**John 15:19b**

*As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.*

- **Jesus' Joy**

**John 16:22b**

*I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.*

**John 17:13**

*I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.*

- **Eternal life**

**John 17:2-3**

*For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

- **God's Protection**

**John 17:11b**

*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.*

**Romans 8:38-39**

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**John 17:15**

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

- **God's Words**

**John 17:14**

*I have given them your word*

- **Sanctification**

**John 17:17**

*Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth*

Get the picture when you are a child of God you get much more than just reconciliation with God, and eternal life. You get access to all the benefits of being a child of God. You have free access to the presence of the only living God. Your Father.

- **God as our Father.**

**Romans 8:14-17a**

*Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—*

I read in verse 20 that Jesus prays for those who -- (us) who will later be reconciled to God and become children of God. And there is more

- **One with God**

**John 17:21**

*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*

God wants to reveal to us an amazing truth. Take a good look at the words of Jesus.

What does Jesus mean *that they can all be one*?

*that all of them may be one*

We belong! We belong to God, but we are also part of the family, the royal family of God. As children of God:

- We all have been redeemed from our sins through the same blood of Jesus.
- And are we all reconciled to one and the same God? God looks at me and sees His child and He looks at you, who believe, and He sees His child and He looks at Christians, in other churches, who believe, and sees His child.
- We all go to the same heaven. There is no heaven for Charismatics, Pentecostals, and Reformed Churches and all the other churches. For those who believe in the rapture or adult baptism and for those who do not believe in it, and who baptize children small. We are on our way to the same God and the same heaven.
- We all together have one common enemy, the devil and sin and death.
- Jesus prays that we will be one as a family of God. He does not pray that we should be the same, but that with our differences we will be one in God.

**How?**

*Father, just as you are in me and I am in you*

It is Jesus' prayer that we look past our different way of understanding our worship and way of church and being church, and that we should be one, as Jesus is in Father and Father in Him. This is a perfect picture of unity. Never ever do we have to look to people to understand what it is to have unity. One God, three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. in harmony. In perfect love, peace and joy. That is why Jesus prayed.

*May they also be in us*

This is the common denominator for every child of God.

- That you and I who believe, with all our faults and all presuppositions may all be equal together in God.
- That we have all received equal amounts of God's love, His grace, His forgiveness, His healing, for Jesus is the equalizer.

When God looks at us, He sees Jesus.

What does it mean to be in God?

- Being in God means accepting His offer as payment for our own sin.
- Being in God means forgiving every sinful thought, attitude, or act we have ever committed, in Christ.
- Being in God means that God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the reconciliation that Jesus accomplished, so He allows us "in Him."

Have you ever felt "out"? Not from God. There are people who think they are not good enough to be accepted by God. The Bible draws a line through it this morning. If you are a child of God, you are "in." In with God and in Jesus.

And then Jesus says why He prays that everyone will be one.

### **John 17:21b**

*so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

God never thinks small, He always thinks world. John 3:16 says God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son, so that those who believe will not perish will have eternal life. And it is Jesus' heart to reconcile you and me to God, and to shower us with all His abundance of goodness and Deity, that we may show it to the world.

The fact that Jesus is sending us to a lost world, is an incredible concept. This implies so much:

- You have something to offer to someone else.
- God sees your contribution as important.
- There are people who depend on your testimony.
- You have influence, you have a responsibility.
- You are unique.
- You are his child who wants to tell you about him.

So Jesus prays further and does not stop what we receive.

- **His Glory**

**John 17:22-24**

*I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 "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.*

Jesus can't give enough of who He is with His disciples and with us who are reconciled to God.

**What is His Glory?**

As I said before, the word *glory* can be translated "**glorious greatness.**" Jesus wants to share His **glorious greatness** with all who believe in Him.

Whose glory is this? Jesus says "*the glory you have given Me.*" It is Father's **glorious greatness** that is in Jesus that He also wants to give us.

What does God's **glorious greatness** look like in Jesus?

- A humble birth in a manger.
- Someone who has given up His position for the sake of others, lost sinners, people who stabbed God in the back.
- Broken on the cross for the sake of others.
- God forsaken, for our sakes, my and your sins and the sins of the world.

Jesus' **glorious greatness** is displayed by His radical sacrifice and the washing of dirty feet in love. What does Jesus' **glorious greatness** look like in you and me? Exactly the opposite of the worldly self-glorification and boastfulness and selfishness of the world.

Listen to what Paul says.

**2 Corinthians 3:18**

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

You and I are recipients of Jesus' **glorious greatness**, whether you want to know it or not. That's what you do with it. Do you grow as a child of God by displaying Jesus' **glorious greatness** in humility, serving others, self-control, love, peace, joy, goodness, kindness.

The gifts just don't stop. Jesus began His conversation in the upper room where He ate that last night with a declaration of His love, love for the max. Listen to how He closes the day.

### **John 17:26**

*I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."*

Whose love is in Jesus? God's. Unbeatable, unchanging, indescribable, nonstop, 100% of the time, 100% love of God is in Jesus. And Father gives this love to Jesus and Jesus gives it to His disciples and to us who believe in Him.

A wonderful picture of the King's children, we are not commoners. We are set aside for God as His children.

### **What do they get?**

- Love to the Max
- A place in heaven
- The Holy Spirit
- Godly Peace
- Hatred of the world
- Jesus' Joy
- Eternal life God's Protection
- God's Word
- Sanctification
- God as our Father.
- One with God
- His Glory

Then the Word says.

**Romans 8:31**

*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

We can answer that in one of two ways.

We can hear it and it can do nothing to us. We can choose to deny or disregard our royal title. We've read lately about Harry and Megan who just want to be commoners.

Or you can gratefully grab it anew and reconnect with God and His Royal family and ask the Holy Spirit to show you where you do not act worthily enough as a child of the King. Then ask Him to help change that behaviour, so you can display the "**glorious greatness**" of our God, so that the world will believe.