

How to Pray During COVID-19

John 17:6-19

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG:

- It Is Well With My Soul - Audrey Assad
- Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery - Matt Boswell
- Great Are You Lord - All Sons and Daughters

SCRIPTURE: John 17:6-19

[6] "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. [7] Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. [8] For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. [9] I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. [10] All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. [11] And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. [12] While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. [13] But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. [14] I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [15] I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. [16] They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. [17] Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. [18] As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. [19] And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

TEACHING OUTLINE:

[6] "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

- Jesus has manifested / revealed the Father's name
 - Name refers to the Father's ID, fame, and character
- How did Jesus reveal the Father?
 - As the Word made flesh, the revelation, the logos
 - As the visible IMAGE of the invisible God
 - Through his obedience, only doing what the Father had him do / A perfect reflection
 - This is what we are called to do as image bearers

- Who are the people Jesus speaks of?
 - Immediately here, his apostles, but on a larger level all those who hear his voice and respond
 - His sheep hear his voice
 - If you respond, you're a sheep

[7] Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you.

- How do they know?

*[8] For I have **given** them the words that you gave me, and they have **received** them and have come to **know in truth** that I came from you; and they have **believed** that you sent me.*

- They know because they have...
 - Heard
 - Received
 - Come to know the truth
 - Believed
- *Romans 10:9-17, 9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?[c] And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

- We go and proclaim (literally herald in v14-15a and evangelize in v15b)
- People hear and respond
- This is how it has always been done! This is God's plan
- Jesus knows that the disciples are his because they have heard, received, come to know truth, and believed

[9] I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.

- Jesus is praying for believers, specifically his current, present believers in John 17
 - This is a general prayer for all people

- He is praying for them in light of the Father's name b/c they are His, so the Father has every reason to hear and respond

[10] All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them.

- In faith, people enter into a unique relationship with the Son and the Father by the Spirit

[11] And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

- Trinitarian fractal
 - Father - Son - Holy Spirit
 - Our Father - The Son's Body - Filled w/ the Son's Spirit
 - As image bearers, little kings, priests, the Church, his body, his bride
- THAT WE MAY BE ONE as the TRINITY is one
 - If the Trinity ceases to be one, the very essence of God breaks down
 - So it is with his people
- This isn't just about unity for unity sake. This is UNION with God (e.g. Ephesians)
- So Jesus prays for unity and for protection b/c..

[12] While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

- While he was present, he guarded them as the Good Shepherd, but now he is leaving to go to the Father

[13] But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

- No longer will he physically be present to guard them, they need to have joy fulfilled in themselves w/ his Spirit

[14] I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

- As his followers, an extension of his fractal, they have:
 - The Word
 - Access to the Father
 - His Spirit
- They have everything they need to accomplish their job in the world.

[15] I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

- (1) Unify them, as seen in v11

- (2) Protect them

[16] They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

- Protect them b/c they are in enemy territory

[17] Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- (3) Sanctify them by your Word of Truth → holiness

[18] As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

- (4) Send them obediently

[19] And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

- Jesus sanctifies himself so we can be sanctified w/ his sanctification of truth

In John 17:6-19, Jesus...

- Prays for unity
- Prays for protection
- Prays for holiness
- Prays for commissioning

FOR US:

- Jesus' prayer is exceptionally relevant for these dangerous times.
 - We are in danger of disunity
 - Not over carpet color or musical preference, but over methodologies, finances, practical realities of what church looks like
 - We are doing too much of this, not enough of that
 - I prefer this, you prefer that
 - I don't like what the elders are doing, I do
 - We are in danger of the enemy
 - The enemy wants to isolate people from the body
 - The enemy wants to isolate people from the head, Jesus
 - The enemy wants to combat faith with fear
 - The enemy wants to puff us up in pride as we look down on others who are struggling more than us
 - We are in danger of sin
 - COVID has presented an opportunity to either run towards our idols or run from them
 - When the toothpaste tube of your heart is squeezed, what is coming out

- Alcohol sales are up, porn use is up, escapes are up, anger is up, online shopping is through the roof. Sin is more evident
- No doubt, God has revealed some struggles these last 37 days. Are you dealing with them?
- We are in danger of Great Apathy over Great Commission
 - Isolation presents hurdles for evangelism for sure, but not impossibilities
 - We need to make the most of every opportunity, harmless as doves, yet cunning as serpents
 - We need to think outside the box, be intentional, be shrewd
 - Consider: Being Missional in Isolation
 - Pray for opportunities - ask the Lord to prompt your heart with names
 - Be Spirit Led

GUIDED PRAYER AND RESPONSE:

- Pray for that God would use this time to unify the church at Revolve, in Cape May County, across the USA and in the world.
- Pray that God would lead us away from the evil one so that we are not picked off one sheep at a time.
- Pray that God would grow us in holiness, convicting us of our sin and then showing us how to flee from it (1 Cor 10:13)
- Pray that God would open up our eyes to see where he is working, fill our mouths with the gospel, and proclaim boldly.

WORSHIP THROUGH SONG:

- Waymaker - Leeland