

Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday, September 13, 2020
A Glimpse of Jesus' Heart
John 17:1-26

In John 17 we see Jesus pouring out his heart in prayer for his disciples. Although we have another prayer that we call "The Lord's Prayer", some say that this would more accurately be called by that title. Here he is not instructing others on how to pray. He is talking to his Father before the most critical, and the most difficult, time in his ministry. As he prays, he shows what the highest priorities of his heart are.

1. Jesus begins, saying, "the time has come. Glorify your Son..." The time has come for what? How does the event he is referring to, bring him glory?
2. He says, "this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." The Gospel calls us into a relationship. To have eternal life we need to know God. What are other ways that people sometimes think are paths to eternal life?
 - a. In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus said there will be people who think they are Christians, but Jesus will say, "I never knew you." What pathway does it seem those people are thinking will lead to eternal life? What is the difference between that pathway and the Gospel?
3. In verse 4, Jesus says he has completed an assignment. What is that assignment, in light of the fact that he hasn't been crucified yet, and in light of the context of John 17? Does that statement tell us anything about how important disciple-making is to God?
4. Jesus speaks a great deal about the disciples and the Word of God (Read John 17: 6-8, 14, 17-18).
 - a. How does the Father reveal himself to followers of Jesus?
 - b. In verse 8 he speaks about the faith of the disciples. What is their response to the Word?
 - c. What does it mean that we are sanctified by the truth?
5. In verse 15, Jesus prays for the protection of the disciples. What do they need protection from?
6. What is the assumption behind verse 20?
7. In verses 20-23 he prays for unity. Why is unity so important?
8. Do you think the priorities of Jesus' heart are supposed to be our priorities? What does this passage tell us about what God wants our priorities to be?
9. Discuss how to apply what you have learned. Are their changes you need to make? Do your priorities need some adjusting?
10. Would you be willing to share with the group what your experience with discipleship has been?