

## JESUS PRAYS FOR HIMSELF

John 17:2-4.

As Pastor Reggie mentioned last Wed., Jesus moved from conversing with the disciples directly into a conversation with God... & we have the privilege of listening in!

- I. What an example to us of unbroken & continual prayer with our Heavenly Father.
  - A. Jesus was the Divine Son of God.
    1. 100% God, second Person of the trinity.
    2. 100% human being, born of Mary.
    3. Here at this most critical moment, Jesus turns His attention to His Father... & rightly so.
  - B. We too are sons & daughters of God... by adoption.
    1. Rom. 8:15, "For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"
    2. Gal. 4:4-7, "God sent forth his son... to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."
      - a. Not just "sons" .... also "heirs".
    2. Just as the Son of God, "lifted up His eyes", so too we can (& should) as a normal part of our daily lives, "lift our eyes & heart to our Abba Father!"
    3. I'm studying a book on **prayer with a friend**, and a statement of A.W. Tozer caught my eye (& heart) this week. He was speaking about our "**private prayers**"... and "**supplementing those with a thousand 'thought prayers'**" as we go about the job of living."
      - a. "Thought prayers"...
      - b. Perhaps this is what Paul meant when he wrote, "**pray without ceasing**", 1 Thes. 5.
      - c. An example might be when **Nehemiah** heard a report of the wall of Jerusalem being in shambles. King Artaxerxes saw his sadness & asked what was wrong. Neh. 2:4, "**So I prayed to the God of heaven.**" ... He whispered a "**prayer to God**".

C. **Listen friends**, we are the **“adopted—children—of God”!**

1. Take the example of Jesus, and **“live in a spirit of prayer”!**

II. v. 2, **“since you have given him authority over all flesh...”**

A. A sad commentary.

1. So many in our world think “they”... “have authority” over people.

a. And to some extent this is true (boss at work—police enforcing the law—politicians—Supreme Court).

2. As you remember, Pilate said to Jesus, Jn. 19:10, “Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you? Jesus answered him, ‘You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above.’”

B. The Son’s undeniable “authority”.

1. Jesus said, Mt. 28:18, “All authority in heaven and earth is has been given to me...”

2. The Father is the Source of that authority, and He has given it **“ALL”** to the Son.

C. The extent of his authority, Phl 2:9-11, “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

1. James Boice has said, “Men and women cannot operate without authority. So if you put out one authority, another will come in. If you reject the authority of God, human authority will emerge.”

2. There have been those in every generation who have **“put out”** God, and proudly assumed the role of “the authority”.

a. This is what happened when Israel rejected God’s authority and leadership of the prophets...

b. And asked for **“a king to rule them”**.

3. Paul said, **“EVERY”** knee shall bow.

4. And he said, **“...things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth...”**, that pretty well includes every **thing** (& every **one**).

III. V. 2,b, **“...to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.”**

A. The purpose of Jesus’ authority is “to give eternal life”.

1. Here we see the separate work of the Father... & the Son,

2. The Son **“gives eternal life”** to those that

3. The Father **“gives to the Son”**.

4. Someone has well said, “Christians often think of Jesus as God’s gift to us; we rarely think of ourselves as God’s gift to Jesus.”

B. There is another “eternal” destiny.

1. In our joy over knowing our sins are forgiven, and having peace with God, we sometimes forget the fact that most people have (or will) reject Jesus.

2. Jesus said, Mat 7:13, 14, “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”

a. The “narrow gate... few find it & enter”.

b. The “wide gate, & the way is ‘easy’ but it leads to destruction... many enter it”

3. Rev 20:11-15, “Then I saw a great white throne ... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.... And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

4. We should be more broken-hearted & passionate about those who are living without Jesus.

a. Praying... serving them in love... telling them about Jesus.

b. All the while knowing that it is **Jesus alone** who “gives eternal life”.

IV. v. 3, “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

A. Life vs death.

1. Someone has well said “**Life** is active involvement with environment; **death** is the cessation of involvement with the environment, whether it be physical or personal.” **(REPEAT)**

2. Considering that definition, “**eternal life**” means that we are alive and active to God’s environment.

3. A most certain proof of our “eternal life” is seen when God’s spiritual environment affects and even dominates our lives. If we are not actively involved in His spiritual environment (in the realm of God and His Spirit) we are dead spiritually.

4. Eph. 2:1-5, “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins... But God being rich in mercy... even when we were dead in our trespasses and sins made us alive together with Christ...”

5. Many times when I see senseless acts of violence in our society.... & even consider the violence perpetrated by nation against nation (such as Russia’s aggression against Ukraine) **I wonder “why”**. A Bible scholar named Teney, “Here is the reason: If God and His spiritual environment does not affect (and even dominate) our life, then it can be said that we do not have or experience **eternal life**. If this is true, then we live life in the same dimension that animals live, and we exist as if we are dead to God and His environment.”

a. Think of that just a moment!

6. It reminds me of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, who in his pride would not acknowledge Jehovah God. “A voice from heaven came” (Dan.4:31) and declared he would live “with the beasts of the field... ate grass... was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles feathers, and his nails were as birds claws... v.34, “At the end of the days, (he) lifted his eyes to heaven,... and blessed the Most High, and praised & honored him who lives forever.”

a. There is 0 (that is zero) distance spiritually speaking between those who reject Jesus Christ, and the rest of the animal kingdom!

b. It’s a wonder our so called “civilized” world is not in worse shape...

## B. Our Source of life.

1. “Eternal life” is found in an “experiential” **knowledge** ( Gk: *ginosko*) of both God the Father and Jesus Christ, God the Son.

2. It’s **not** a “head” knowledge.

3. To say you “know God the Father, as the only true God, and Jesus Christ who He sent”, means **not** that we know certain facts about them,

4. It means we have an on-going relationship with the Father and the Son  
a. Vines Dict. Of Old & New Testament Words, “In the NT ‘ginosko’ frequently indicates a relation between the person knowing and the object known; in this respect, what is known is of value or importance to the one who knows, and hence the establishment of the relationship.... such knowledge is obtained , not by mere intellectual activity, **but by operation of the Holy Spirit.**”.

5. How do we “know” we are in right relationship with the Father & Son?

a. **We have a relationship with them!**

b. We are “abiding” in Jesus “the vine” as a “branch”, ch. 15.  
V. v.4, “I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.”

A. v. 4.a, “I glorified you on earth, ...”

1. Jesus entire life “glorified” the Father.
  - a. There is not a trace of conceit or pride in the Godhead.
  - b. The Son glorified the Father, and...
  - c. The Spirit draws us to the Son (not to Himself).
2. From His dedication at the temple (Luke 2:21-23)
3. Through his quiet years of obedience as a child, in Nazareth (Matthew 2:23, 13:55).
4. Jesus glorified the Father through His faith, obedience, and work through the years of His earthly ministry.
5. Every sermon preached, ...blind or sick person healed, ...bit of instruction and training for the disciples, ...confrontation with the corrupt religious leaders ...question answered ..every loving touch
6. Consider: Mat. 15:30, 31, “And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified the God of Israel.
7. Mk. 2:12, “But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” — he said to the paralytic-“Rise, pick up your bed, and go home.” And he rose and immediately picked up his bed and went out before them all, so that they were all amazed and **glorified God**, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”
8. Lk. 17:12-15, “And as he entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.” When he saw them he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed... Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, **glorifying God** with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan...
9. And so it should be with our lives... we should live for the glory of God.

B. v.4, b, "... I have accomplished the work that you gave me to do."

1. As Jesus spoke these words in prayer to the Father, there is of course a sense in which His "work" was **not** completely finished...
  - a. Until his death on the cross... resurrection... ascension.
2. But on the other hand, Rev. 13:8, (speaks of) "... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (KJV)
3. When Jesus spoke from the cross, "It is finished!", the crowd... the religious leaders of the day... and the soldiers may have thought of defeat.
4. **But not Jesus!**... the price had been paid, for your sins and mine.
5. After His resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit,
  - a. There is **nothing** left to do,
  - b. Except what Paul told the Philippian jailer, Acts 16:31, "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ"
6. Jesus had indeed "accomplished" (finished) the work God gave Him to do".
7. And friends, as we said before, "And so it should be with our lives... we should live our lives for His glory... & finish the work He has for us to do.