



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: The Personal Prayer of Jesus

Date: February 22, 2026

Scripture Text: John 17:1-8

Notes:

After spending time with His disciples the night before His crucifixion, Jesus turns His attention to His heavenly Father. We find Him alone in prayer. John 17 is what some call the ‘real Lord’s Prayer’. It is Jesus spending an intimate time with His Father, praying on behalf of Himself, His disciples, and for those who would one day accept His redemptive work (us!). Today we focus on the section of the chapter where Jesus is praying for Himself. A personal prayer, but not a selfish prayer. Sometimes our prayers may be more motivated for our wellbeing above God’s glory, i.e., selfish prayer. It all goes back to the motive of the heart. Let’s look at *the personal prayer of Jesus*.

I. Glorify Me on Earth (John 17:1-4)

Jesus starts His prayer; “Father, the hour has come”. Many times, during His ministry when there was a threat or danger to Jesus, He would remind His listeners that His time had not yet come. Well, now His time had come. It was time to redeem mankind. But this timetable was not man made, but God ordained.

- Jesus sought for God to glorify Him so He in turn could glorify God. Jesus sought to be empowered by God to do His will. He was not about His own agenda but moving God’s agenda forward.
 - What are examples in the life of Jesus leading up to this point where He reflected God’s agenda?
 - How can we also be agents for God to move His agenda along through us?
 - How does God empower us today to glorify Him?
- The Father has given the Son authority over all people, and one day every knee will bow to Him ([Phil. 2:9-11](#)); but here it is stressed that the Father has granted Him authority to bestow eternal life to those who in turn believe in His name. This brings glory to the Father because it reveals the love and compassion the Father has for people.
 - Under the authority granted to Jesus, He grants eternal life so we may *know* God. What does it mean to know God?
 - Knowing God is more than head knowledge, but it is an intimate relationship that continues to grow. As a Christian, how can our relationship with God continue to grow over time?
 - How well do you know God?



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- Jesus glorified God by completing the work God gave Him to do. This work involved revealing the Father through His life and ministry, all of which would end in giving Himself on the cross.
 - As Christians, we have work to do as well ([Eph. 2:10](#)). What work do you do to the glory of God?
 - Our calling is not the work, but to surrender to the will of God. Surrendering to God empowers us to do the (His) work. Describe what it means to surrender to God?
 - How is God glorified by our surrendering to Him?

II. Glorify Me in Heaven ([John 17:5-8](#))

Jesus Christ has always been, even before creation ([John 1:1-2](#)). He asks to be restored to the glory He shared with the Father before time began. He is indeed worthy! He then proceeds to describe the investment He made in the disciples, in preparation for His departure, to carry on the ministry according to the will of God.

- Jesus revealed God to the disciples in His words, actions and Himself. They in turn were expected to *obey* the instruction they had been given ([1 John 2:3-6](#))
 - How are we also able to see God revealed in Jesus' words, actions and person?
 - How can obeying the word of God help others see Jesus?
 - To obey the word of God requires you to know the word of God. How well do you know the word of God?
- Jesus revealed God to His disciples, and they *received* it ([1 Cor. 1:18](#)).
 - How can we be open and receptive to what God teaches us in His word?
 - What can be distractions or hindrances to receiving His teaching?
- Not only did the disciples receive what Jesus taught them, but they also *believed* ([Rom 10:9](#)).
 - They say, 'the proof is in the pudding', but the proof is in actually eating the pudding. Belief in Jesus involves trusting and reliance. Believing that we can have eternal life through His redemptive work.

How surrendered are you to Jesus Christ?

Do others see Jesus in you?

“When an occasion calls us to prayer, it is fitting for us to pray for that which increases God’s glory before we pray for that which concerns ourselves.... The Savior indeed spoke these words to show how very necessary his own glory was to the Father so that he might be known to be consubstantial [comparable] with him ... for the Father is glorified in the glory of his offspring.”

Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD)