

John Series XVII

The Departing Prayer of Jesus

May 08, 2015

I. WELCOME, 15 mins.

Prepare a couple of simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to lay aside their busyness and tiredness and prepare their hearts to come before God.

II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God's face, and lead them into God's presence. During this time, the cell group leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

A. **MISSION ORGANIZATION:** _____, and their needs are: _____

(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

B. CHURCH MINISTRY:

- 13/29-6/7 Love & Logic Parenting Class
- 5/10 Mother's Day
- 5/13 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting
- 5/15-17 Spring Retreat
- 6/14 English Family Luncheon

C. Newcomer: _____ Confirm newcomers' name before the meeting.

For sick members, friends or relatives: _____ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

III. WORD, 45 mins.

Through sharing and discussing God's word, the group applies it to their daily life.

A. **Sharing the message from last Sunday's sermon:** (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again)

1. What is the key message from last Sunday's sermon? How did God speak to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

B. Topic of the week: The Departing Prayer of Jesus

Verses: John 17:1-26

Memorizing Verses: I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— (John 17:22)

Preface:

After Jesus had strengthened and comforted the disciples, the time had come for Him to glorify the Heavenly Father by becoming the sin sacrifice for the world. Before His departure, Jesus as the High Priest prays for Himself, his disciples, and the believers who will believe in Him. He asks the Father to protect them from the persecutions of the evil one, to live in unity to testify for Jesus, and to be in the presence of Jesus to enjoy God's glory.

1. The Lord Jesus prays for Himself (vs. 1-5)

- a. Jesus completed the work God had entrusted to Him (vs. 1-4)

1) Jesus glorified the Father: Jesus came as a man into the world, living a blameless and holy life to testify to God's glory, that God is holy. 2) Jesus has the authority to give eternal life: Jesus carried out the plan of the Father to save people and give people eternal life. Only by believing in Jesus can we have eternal life (John 3:16). 3) To know that God is the only one, true God: Jesus came into the world to reveal the Father so that people can clearly understand that under heaven other than our God, there is no other true God, and to know that Jesus is the eternal God.

- b. Jesus shares the glory with the Father (vs. 5)

From before creation until Jesus came into the world, Jesus and the Father shared the same honor, splendor, and glory. But as God the Son, Jesus obeyed the will of the Father and came into the world with a mission. Yet the world only failed to honor Him, and instead they disdained Him. They wanted to kill Him, because they did not know Jesus and they did not know God. Now, Jesus will soon complete His mission and return back to the Father to share with the Father in His original glory.

2. The Lord Jesus prays for the disciples (vs. 6-19)

a. Protecting the unity of the disciples (vs. 6-12)

1) Praying for the disciples that the Father had given to Jesus (vs. 6-9): The special trait of the disciples is that they belong to the Heavenly Father. They were chosen by the Father out from the world to give to Jesus in order that they will follow Jesus. Through the teachings and all the miracles of Jesus, the disciples came to know the Father and know the Father has given all things to Jesus. The disciples not only obeyed the teachings of Jesus, but they also had the reassurance that Jesus was sent by the Father to the world.

2) The Father is one with Jesus and shares the glory with Jesus (vs. 10): The Father shares all things with Jesus. In other words, whatever belongs to the Father belongs to Jesus, and whatever belongs to Jesus also belongs to the Father. Therefore, all the things Jesus did for the disciples on earth and all the glory Jesus received are also shared with the Father.

3) The disciples must be united: The Father is one with Jesus so that the grace of salvation from God can be accomplished. Jesus will leave and the disciples will be left in the world. The disciples also must be united in order to complete the mission of the gospel. Therefore, Jesus asks the Father to protect them so they will be kept from the evil one in the world, not only because of the enemy's attacks and his disturbances, but also so that they will not lose the unity.

b. Protecting the disciples from the evil one (vs. 13-16)

1) The victory of Jesus allows the disciples to have joy (vs. 13): The Holy Spirit will guide the disciples to remember the words of Jesus and to understand Jesus had overcome the enemy, brought back the captives, and given them eternal life. 2) Jesus asks the Father to protect the disciples from the evil one (vs. 14-16): The disciples have a new life given to them by Jesus. They belong to God. God's word is their life and it is the guide for their life. This will come in conflict with the world controlled by Satan. The world will hate the disciples and treat the disciples the same way they treated Jesus. Jesus prays for the disciples in the midst of persecutions and conflicts, asking that the Father will protect them so they can complete their mission.

c. Protecting the disciples so they may be sanctified in the truth (vs. 17-19)

1) The disciples' hearts are sanctified by God's word (Ephesians 5:26). 2) Jesus sent the disciples to the world: Jesus was sent by the Father into the world to lead people to know and glorify God. Now Jesus sent the disciples to do the things Jesus did on earth. 3) The disciples are sanctified to God for His purpose; because Jesus offered Himself up as the sacrifice for sin, it gives the disciples a holy life, a life set apart from the world for God to use as holy instruments.

3. The Lord Jesus prays for all believers (vs. 20-26)

a. Keeping the unity testifies that Jesus is the One sent from God (vs. 20-21): From generation to generation, through the preaching of the disciples, the witnessing for Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit to guide people to believe in Jesus and turn back to God, in the end, believers will complete the Great Commission entrusted by Jesus. Therefore, Jesus prays for the future believers and asks the Father to protect their hearts to be united, (Ephesians 4:3-6). When this happens, the world will know they belong to Jesus and testify that Jesus is the One sent by the Father into the world.

b. Keeping the unity because of the glory of Jesus and the love of God (vs. 22-23,26): 1) The glory Christ gives to the disciples, the most important part is the glory of the cross, which is closely tied to God's salvation plan and purpose. 2) With the Heavenly Father, Jesus as God the Son is loved by the Father, and they are one. The believers in Jesus are connected to Jesus and enjoy the love the Father has for Jesus (when the Father sees the disciples it is like seeing his beloved One and only begotten Son, Jesus). Therefore, they can be one. These things clearly prove Jesus is sent from God and came to the world to accomplish the mission to save the world.

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs):

1. In your family life, how do you protect the unity in the family?
2. In what ways did Jesus glorify the Father? In what ways did the Father glorify Jesus?

3. What did Jesus pray for the disciples? What did He pray for the believers?
4. Why did Jesus constantly pray for the unity of the believers? How should we live out a life of unity to glorify Jesus?
5. What is the greatest inspiration and thing you have received from the departing prayer of Jesus?

Prayer:

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we praise and thank you. Thank you for sending Jesus to come into the world. He not only accomplished salvation for us, but also constantly thinks of us, praying to You on our behalf, so that we can be united in serving You, preaching Your salvation and grace, and leading people to believe that your beloved Son Jesus is the Christ, the eternal Lord. O Lord, help us to be united in preaching and witnessing for Your name to the ends of the earth so that You can be glorified. O Lord, we thank You for revealing to us the glory You received. We ask You to protect us so we can make every effort to keep the heart of unity given by the Holy Spirit and be at peace with brothers and sisters. May we, together, advance the gospel and glorify Your name. We thank You and pray in the name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.

Please break into groups of 2 or 3 to pray for each other's needs.