



Calvary of Albuquerque

Holy Eavesdropping - John 17:1

From the series: Believe:879

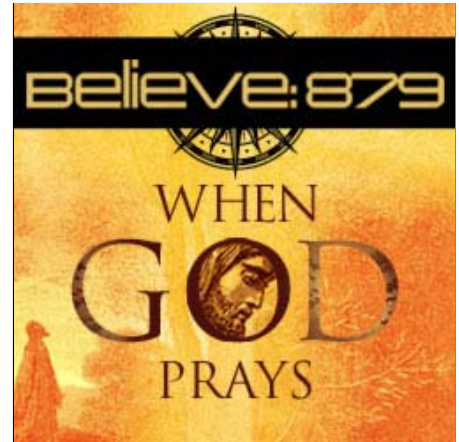
By Skip Heitzig

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Imagine if you could sit and listen to Jesus talking to His Father—what would Jesus say to Him? In this prayer (which comprises all of John 17) we step onto *holy ground*. His instruction to His followers is now over. His preparation of them is done. He now turns His attention heavenward to talk directly to His Father about Himself, about His disciples, and about His future church. This prayer is unique for four reasons:

OUTLINE

- I. The Person Who Spoke It
- II. The Power That Results From It
- III. The Posture That Accompanied It
- IV. The Purpose That Directed It



Pondering the Principles:

1. If you were listening to Jesus praying this same prayer for you personally, how would you feel toward Him? How would you feel toward the Father? Toward the world?
2. When do you most often pray? For how long? What happens when you pray?
3. What one word describes your life's goal? Is your life's goal the same as that of Jesus?

DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
 - A. The greatest prayer ever prayed by the greatest person who ever lived
 1. We are standing on holy ground
 2. Veil pulled back; we gaze into the heart of God
 - B. Longest recorded prayer of Jesus
 1. Elsewhere we are told He prayed all night (see Luke 6:12)
 2. 632 words; 25 verses
 - C. The Lord's Prayer
 1. Matthew 6:9-13 records the "Disciples Prayer": He taught them to pray
 2. This is His own prayer
 - a. Personal communication with the Father
 - b. His requests made just hours before His death
- II. The Person Who Spoke It
 - A. He is equal with God
 1. "Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,"
 2. "As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." (John 17:2-3)
 3. "And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them." (John 17:10)
 4. "Being in very nature God" (Philippians 2:6 NIV)
 - B. 19 times in the gospels we see Jesus praying
 - C. Jesus has two natures: God but Man
 1. Theanthropic
 - a. θεός; theos - god
 - b. ἄνθρωπος; anthropos - man
 - c. Fully God, fully Man
 2. For 33 years, subjected Himself obediently to the Father's will
 3. Dependent on the father

4. First heresy denied the humanity of Jesus Christ: Gnosticism
5. "Jesus may have had pimples. He may have been tone-deaf. Perhaps a girl down the street had a crush on him or vice versa. It could be that his knees were bony. One thing's for sure: He was, while completely divine, completely human. For thirty-three years he would feel everything you and I have ever felt. He felt weak. He grew weary. He was afraid of failure. He was susceptible to wooing women. He got colds, burped, and had body odor. His feelings got hurt. His feet got tired. And his head ached. To think of Jesus in such a light is—well, it seems almost irreverent, doesn't it? It's not something we like to do; it's uncomfortable. It is much easier to keep the humanity out of the incarnation. Clean the manure from around the manger. Wipe the sweat out of his eyes. Pretend he never snored or blew his nose or hit his thumb with a hammer. He's easier to stomach that way. There is something about keeping him divine that keeps him distant, packaged, predictable. But don't do it. For heaven's sake, don't. Let him be as human as he intended to be. Let him into the mire and muck of our world. For only if we let him in can he pull us out."-- Max Lucado

D. Jesus Christ was dependant on the Father. Should we depend on Him any less?

III. The Power That Results From It

- A. If Jesus prayed it, it will be answered
 1. He is never out of sync with the Father
 2. "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." (John 11:41-42)
- B. Jesus' prayers generally
 1. Himself (see John 17:1-5)
 2. His 11 apostles (see John 17:6-19)
 3. Us (see John 17:20-26) "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;" (John 17:20)
- C. Jesus' specific prayers
 1. Their security: "Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are." (John 17:11)
 2. Their safety: "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one." (John 17:15)
 3. Their sanctity: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)
 4. Their unity: "That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us," (John 17:21)
 5. Their eternity: "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)
- D. If we want our prayers answered, pray along those lines
 1. The will of God for us according to Christ
 2. The purpose of prayer is not to get your will done in heaven, but to get God's will done on earth
 3. "I always want what God wants, and that's why I'm so happy."--Francis of Assisi
- E. Jesus is still a man of prayer
 1. "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26-27)
 2. "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." (Hebrews 7:25)
 3. His mediatorial work: His unfinished work
- F. How does it make you feel to know Jesus is praying for you?
 1. Satan accuses the brethren
 2. Jesus is our defense attorney

IV. The Posture That Accompanied It

- A. Jesus lifted His eyes
 1. Jewish posture of prayer acknowledging God's throne in heaven
 2. "Unto You I lift up my eyes, O You who dwell in the heavens." (Psalm 123:1)
- B. What is the right posture for prayer?
 1. Whatever gets you to pray!
 2. Abraham stood (see Genesis 18:22)
 3. Jehoshaphat bowed (see 2 Chronicles 20:18)
 4. Daniel knelt down (see Daniel 6:10)
 5. Solomon lifted his hands (2 Kings 8:22)
 6. Ezra knelt and lifted his hands (see Ezra 9:5)
- C. Jesus prayed aloud
 1. Someone heard and recorded it
 2. "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'" (Matthew 26:39)
 3. Praying aloud lessens distractions

V. The Purpose That Directed It

- A. In His prayer, Jesus prays least for Himself (5 of 26 verses)
- B. The theme of His prayer is the glory of God
 1. Glory or glorify mentioned 8 times
 2. Δοξάζω; doxazo - honor, bestow glory on, make someone renown
 3. "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do." (John 17:4)
 4. "I have manifested Your name." (John 17:6)
- C. The Hour

1. Planned from eternity past
2. "My hour has not yet come." (John 2:4)
3. "Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come." (John 7:30)
4. "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end." (John 13:1)
5. The Cross
 - a. Satan's power destroyed
 - b. Salvation dispersed to all who believe

VI. Application

- A. If you want a good idea how to talk to God, eavesdrop on Jesus talking to God: to please and glorify the Father
- B. The anthem of Heaven: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11)

Greek Terms: Δοξάζω; doxazo - honor, bestow glory on, make someone renown; θεός; theos - god; ἄνθρωπος; anthropos - man

Figures Referenced: Franklin Graham; Billy Graham; Francis of Assisi

Publications Referenced: *God Came Near*, by Max Lucado

Cross References: Genesis 18:22; 2 Kings 8:22; 2 Chronicles 20:18; Ezra 9:5; Psalm 123:1; Daniel 6:10; Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 26:39; Luke 6:12; John 2:4; John 7:30; John 11:41-42; John 13:1; John 17:2-3; John 17:4; John 17:6; John 17:10; John 17:11; John 17:15; John 17:17; John 17:20; John 17:21; John 17:24; Romans 8:26-27; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 4:11