

## THE TRUE LORD'S PRAYER

John 17:1 - 3 ff

**Introduction:** Repeat the Lord's Prayer...."Now I lay me down to sleep..." or "Our Father which art in heaven..." Neither is the real Lord's prayer....The one in John 17 is the true Lord's Prayer

- Why did Jesus pray aloud?
- He wanted His disciples to hear what He had to say to the Heavenly Father about their relationship and about His relationship with His disciples.
- His disciples were terrified knowing that He was about to leave them and they would be alone.
- Instead of a cry of weakness, or a plea for help, Jesus expressed a powerful awareness of what was about to happen.

### I. HE EXPRESSED AN AWARENESS OF ANTICIPATED "OPPORTUNITY" (17:1a)

1. Jesus looked forward to a time of boundless opportunity that was before Him. *"My time has come.."* To us that means our time is up..the end of our rope..that's all.
  - Jesus had looked forward to this time all His life. The hour He had awaited. How many times did Jesus say *"my hour is not yet come.."*
2. Jesus knew that it would take His death to make effective and lasting all He had done. He once said: *"except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone; but if it die, it brings forth much fruit.."*
  - Beyond the cross lay the glory and joy He had been awaiting and His earthly ministry would be fulfilled.
3. There is a time in our lives also that we must pray this prayer.
  - When disappointments, set-backs, tragedies, invasions of privacy, the right to live our own lives come into our lives we must see them as Jesus saw them, **opportunities of great possibilities** whereby we give ourselves away to the Heavenly Father.

### II. HE SPOKE OF AN AWARENESS OF AN ADEQUATE RELATIONSHIP (17:1b-2)

1. What a marvelous display of giving and sharing.
  - The Father gives to the Son in order that the Son may give back to the Father - why?
  - In order that the Son may continually give back to the Father the people whom the Father gives to Him - **US!**
2. Why did the Father give Jesus power?
  - That He might give eternal life to those the Father has given Him.
  - That He might meet the need of all who come to Him.
  - There is in Jesus an adequate answer to any problem. We don't need the answer! (Mt.11:28)
3. The secret of vital Christianity is having Jesus in order to do what He did.
  - The indwelling life of Jesus enables Him to continually give to us all power in order that we might give back to Him the joy, the glorying and the thanksgiving of our hearts.

### III. JESUS SAW THE UNVEILING OF AN ABOUNDING POSSIBILITY (17:3)

1. What does eternal life mean?

- Eternal existence going on and on forever? Life on a cloud strumming a harp? Walking on golden streets?

- **"That they may know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent."**

**THAT IS ETERNAL LIFE!**

- Eternal life is not quantity - it is **quality** - it is knowing a Person.

- What is marriage? Cooking, working, having children, watching T.V., etc..?

- Discuss our meeting, dating, etc....but not until we were married did we begin to know each other. Marriage is knowing another person.

2. Eternal life is **knowing** God personally, having close fellowship as a Father and His children.

- Knowing another person means enjoyment - the end of loneliness, somebody to listen, to talk to, to share problems and joys with. **That is what knowing God is.**

- Knowing another person means activity - doing things with somebody, not having to live in a rut or in isolation. **Knowing God brings activity and enlargement of life.**

- Knowing another person brings enrichment of life, adding depth and variety to everyday living. **Knowing God through Jesus Christ brings enrichment in all areas of life.** True values of life are discovered.

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Are you interested in entering into that kind of relationship with God?

2. Do you believe that there are many, many possibilities that God is ready to pour into your life?

3. Or are you content with things like they are and always have been. Doing the same old thing, week after week, nothing changing, nothing different, don't want any changes?

***"Our Father, what pathetic beggars we are, possessing such marvelous riches, enjoying so little of them. Lord, break away the shackles of our unbelief. Stop us from discounting all this that we hear. Keep us from this terrible thing of going back into "normal life" as we call it, and being the same old person that we have always been. God help us to see that in Jesus Christ there is life, and light, and liberty, and abundance and make us hunger and thirst for them. We pray in His name. Amen."***