



DATE: March 15, 2009

TEXT: John 17: 11-19

TITLE: “The Real Lords Prayer II”

During this Lenten Season I am sharing a sermon series on John 17. Let me once again provide the setting for this chapter. This is what we call Maundy Thursday. Jesus is in the Upper Room celebrating the Passover feast with his disciples. He has just finished an extended time of teaching around the Seder meal. He is now closing this time in prayer. This truly is the Lord at prayer. By listening to a persons prayer I believe you gain a great insight into a person.

That is one reason I do not use pre-written, set prayers. I am not saying these prayers would always be inappropriate. I do, write down prayers in advance... a name... a concern.... a praise... a thought. If I was asked to pray at a large formal setting I would probably jot down some ideas for a prayer. I know some people are uncomfortable with public speech and especially public prayer so writing down prayers makes it easier. But for me... writing down a full prayer in advance would be like writing down a conversation I have with you in advance. I write myself notes about conversations fairly often....it will say “Talk to Kim about Sunday

plans.” “Talk to June about newsletter.” But I don’t write out conversations. I believe this indicates my understanding of God. He is a personal, present, living Lord. I believe he hears my prayers... and prayer is a constant part of my life. I rarely have the radio on in my car now. I used to.... it used to be music.. Then talk radio... but now I find it distracting... now I think and I pray.

We are using this prayer of Jesus to give us insight into our Lord. I am sharing a total to 5 insights into the Lord. We looked at the first 2 last week.. I will just mention them and then move on.

Lesson # 1 Note Christ’s deep personal relationship with the heavenly Father. Again and again we saw Jesus address God as Father. We saw that this was unique.... unique to Jesus 2000 years ago and still unique today among all the other religions.

Lesson # 2 We see in the prayer the fact of Jesus’ perfect life. In the Lords Prayer we pray ever week we say “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” This is an acknowledgment of our sin. There is no such confession in the prayer of Jesus. Jesus is the High

Priest who did not first have to offer sacrifices for his own sin... he was without sin.

Lesson # 3 This prayer of Jesus tells us of His perfect obedience. *John 17:4 states...*

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”

Jesus had a number of tasks to complete. I can just see him going down his checklist

- live a life of obedience to my parents and my heavenly Father Check
- have a ministry of teaching Check
- call a band of followers who will carry out the work when I am gone Check
- have a ministry of miracles to demonstrate the love and power of God check
- battle Satan and win a victory over evil Check
- provide truth to the world Check
- die for the sins of the world Soon to be check

Let me ask you this question.... could you pray the same prayer? Could you say “Father, I

have completed the work you have called me to do.” There is the challenge each and every one of us have.

I had some fun reading through some of the Confessions of our church. Confessions are documents written and accepted by the church throughout history as guidelines of truth. The Apostles Creed is one of these Confessions. The Westminster Confession of Faith and it's catechisms are the traditional foundational confessions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church. I

also love the Heidelberg Catechism. Allow me to use these catechisms as a basis for our checklist as we examine our lives.

- **Westminster Larger Catechism question # 1 “What is the chief end of man? Answer: “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to fully enjoy him forever.”**

Not be happy... not raise a family.... not earn money. “Glorify God and fully enjoy him” Are you able to check this off?

- **Westminster Shorter Catechism question # 33 “What is justification?” Answer: “Justification is an act of God’s free grace, wherein he pardoneth all our sins, and accepteth us as righteous in his sight only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone.”**

Have I been justified? Have I been saved and had the righteousness of Christ imputed into me? Have I had faith? Have I surrendered to Christ as Lord and Savior? Are you able to check this off?

- **Westminster Shorter Catechism question # 33 “What is Sanctification?” Answer: Sanctification is the work of God’s free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.”**

have you died to sin and do you live for righteousness? Is Christ changing you life... your actions.... your thoughts? Can you check this off?

- **Heidelberg Catechism question # 1 “What is your only comfort in life and death?” Answer: “That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.”**

Can you check this one off? One more

- **Heidelberg Catechism question # 21 “What is true faith.” Answer: it is not only a certain knowledge by which I accept as true all that God has revealed to us in his Word, but also a wholehearted trust which the Holy Spirit creates in me through the gospel, that, not only to others, but to me also, God has given the forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness and salvation, out of sheer grace solely for th sake of Christ’s saving work.”**

What a great definition of faith... “wholehearted trust” Have you give that to Christ. Can you check this off?

Let me close this lesson with this thought... there is a direct correlation between the reality of your obedience and the power of you prayers. *James 5:16 states*

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Obedience is a necessary ingredient to power in prayer. Jesus knew this. He lived a life that was obedient to the Heavenly Father. Are we living a life of obedience?

Lesson # 4 Note in this prayer Jesus’ vibrant love. *John 17:20 states...*

My prayer is not for the (disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message

Jesus was just minutes from his arrest. Hours from the whipping... the mocking... the abandonment by his disciples....the crucifixion... the abandonment by the heavenly Father for the first time in all eternity.... and yet he is praying for us. He is praying for you and for me.

Throughout history the symbol of Christianity has been the cross. In many ways that is very strange. That would be like wearing a electric chair around our necks or putting a gallows at the front of our church. That was the cross. It was the common means of execution of the

Roman Empire. Why do we exalt the cross? Paul tells us why in *1 Corinthians 1:17*

17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God

For Christians it is a symbol of the power of God. For Christians it is a symbol of the love of God. Once again the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus shows his love for you and me.

Lesson # 5 This prayer of Jesus demonstrates the amazing joy of our Lord. *John 17:13*

states...

13 "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them.

Jesus is praying that we may experience the joy that he is living. Again, isn't this amazing considering what Jesus is facing in the next few hours. But at the same time... remember that Jesus sees the bigger picture. Jesus, does not want to go through the agony that he is facing... we know this from his prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.... but at the same time Jesus knew he was going home. For all eternity he had been with the heavenly Father... for 30 years he had walked this earth... but Jesus knew this was not his home.

Have you ever been on a vacation that you could not wait to end. When Adam and Erin were in early Elementary school we decided to take a trip to Quebec. Again finances were very tight at the time so we decided to go tenting. We bought a tent... left it unopened in the case and set off for Quebec. Well we arrived and discovered we were at a campsite that no one could or would speak English. Next we had to erect the tent. I discovered you have to be an architectural engineer to put this tent up. I can report I failed the test of patience in the process of erecting that tent.

As we were putting up the tent I finally had to resort and look at the directions That is when I noticed it said. "Waterproof seams before use." That night it began to rain. We discovered the critical nature of these directions. It leaked like a sieve. We were all lying in a puddle of water. The camp ground had a Laundromat. My wife spent the entire next day feeding Canadian quarters into the dryers. The next night it rained again... and got cold. It rained for 5 straight days. Firewood was wet... other campsites had a dining tarp, not us, cooking in the rain was not fun... And the kids got cranky. We were having a wonderful time. Finally, about 2 days

early we said... “let’s go home.” We packed our wet tent... our wet sleeping bags... our wet clothes.. Our wet shoes... and we went home. There was never a happier time on that vacation then when we pulled into our driveway at home.

I know this is an inadequate illustration.. But in many ways that had to be the attitude of Christ... he was going home. Yes, the next few hours would be hell on earth... but he was going home.

We too are on a sojourn in a foreign land. This place is not our home. Yes, part of that sojourn may be very bad. Yes, we face illness.... we face death of loved ones... we face tragedy... but we are going home. We can face struggle with joy... the joy of knowing the Lord is with us and we are never alone and we are going home.

This is what we see in our Lord Jesus in this prayer. # 1 We see this deep relationship with God the Father. # 2 We see His perfect, sinless life. # 3 We see his perfect obedience. # 4 We see the vibrant love of Christ for you and for me. # 5 We see the joy of Christ in the face of tragedy and pain. He is going home. We too are going home.

Next week we are going to concentrate on Jesus' prayers of thanksgiving in this prayer.

AMEN