**John XV The Hour Has Come Jesus Prays For Unity**

This is the last in our series #Jesus Our 52nd sermon in the series!

Matthew: Jesus is revealed through his fulfillment of prophecy and of the Jewish messianic expectation. Theme verse: Matthew 5:17 I did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it.

Mark: Jesus the Messiah is a suffering servant and savior of mankind. Jesus the man of action.

Theme verse: Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Luke: Jesus is revealed as Messiah primarily through his ministry to the poor, the sick, disadvantaged, women, the outcast and Gentiles.

John: Jesus is revealed through his miracles and through his statements about himself. (and also through his fulfillment of the expectation of Jewish festivals)

Central Theme

Jesus is the Son of God who reveals the father, providing eternal life to all who believe in him

Review: John 15:1-8

v. 1 I AM the true vine. I AM statement #7

John 15:1 Jesus is the vine. He is the connection to the Father.

God is a gardener. He is he one who prunes the branches.

We are the branches. This is the part that bears fruit.

Those parts of us which are not going to be fruitful, he cuts off so that we can bear more fruit.

15:4 The key teaching in John 15:4 We should abide (remain) in Jesus.

We need to be connected to God through Jesus. Then we will bear much fruit.

What is this fruit? Is it the fruits of the Spirit from Gal 5:22? Is it people who come to Christ? 15:7-8 It is the things we ask for. It is the things produced through our prayer.

John 15:9-17 **The key to abiding is obeying God and loving one another.** (esp. v. 10).

v. 14-15 Jesus even calls us friend.

What kind of friend is Jesus? v. 13 He even dies for us. That’s love!

Our obedience is that of a friend who willingly obeys rather than as a slave who is forced to obey.

John 15:18-16:4

Here, Jesus is continuing with comforting his disciples

Jesus’ assurance (which may not sound very reassuring) is that it is only natural that the world will hate you. To the extent that you are like me, you will be hated by the world. In any case, it is me, not you who they are hating.

**John 16:5-16 Jesus further comforts the Disciples**

Jn 16:6 It is for your good that I am going away. Why? Because it is better for us to have the Holy Spirit living in us than to have Jesus living among us. If I do not go away, He cannot come.

John 16:31-33 Summary of Ch 14:1-16:30 Take heart! I have overcome the world!!!

**John 17: The Hour Has Come. Jesus Prays for His Disciples—for Unity**

The scene: The last supper. Judas has left to betray Jesus. In a couple of hours he will be arrested. In Ch 13-16 Jesus comforts his disciples. The one dying comforts! Now, he starts his last and greatest prayer with and for his apostles.5

John 17:1 Father the hour has come.

Up to now, Jesus has said several times, “My hour has not yet come.” (John 2:4, John 7:6, etc.)

What hour? The “hour” of Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension

The hour of his redemption of humanity.

The greatest hour in all of human history.

The consummation of the plan which had been in place since the time of Abraham.

The hour when all prophecy will be fulfilled

When the Old Covenant will not be ended but completed

When the New Covenant will be established

The lamb, slain from the creation of the world Rev 13:8 is now ready to be slain.

Yes, the hour, truly has come.

John 17:1 The hour for Jesus to be glorified—to be lifted up. This has been a constant theme in John.

Glory/glorify 9 times in John 17 alone. (36 in book of John) 17:1,4,5,10,22,24

John 3:14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

John 8:28 When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I AM He.

John 12:32 I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

John 17:3 This is eternal life: That they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

What is eternal life? Knowing God. Not knowing about God.

The Greek word is *ginosko* which means to know intimately knowing, experiencing.

Spanish: saber to know information conocer to know by experience.

This intimate knowing is both the cause and the result of being saved.

Do you know Jesus? Have you experienced Jesus? What would that mean to you?

Q: How do I know God? John 17:25-26 Jesus: I have made you known to them, so that your love may be in them,

Q: How did Jesus do this? Let’s go back to John 1:18 No one has seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Answer: we look at Jesus. We stare at him. We read about him (which we have been doing for a full year now), We act like him and feel what it is like to be like him. We meditate on him. We obey him.

John 17:4 God glorified Jesus but Jesus glorified God. How? By finishing the work the Father gave him to do.

That is how we glorify God.

Jesus never lost sight of the work God had given him.

2 Tim 4:6-8 I have fought the good fight and finished the race.

I hope and pray that, as I approach death, I will be able to say this.

How are you doing at fighting the fight God gave you and finishing the race he laid out for you. (Or have you gotten too entangled in civilian affairs 2 Timothy 2:4)

What is the fight? The fight is for people’s souls.

What a feeling that will be at the end of our lives to know that we did indeed fight that fight.

Are you a fighter for God? Are you running that race?

John 17:6-19 Jesus prays for the apostles. Maybe we should not analyze it too deeply.

In John 17:1-5 Jesus prays for himself, then in John 17:6-19 for his apostles, then in John 17:20-26 for all believers.

What sticks out is Jesus’ incredible love and concern for the apostles. Jesus is very concerned about his followers. Jesus is about to suffer an agonizing and shameful death. When we think of Jesus, we should think of this passage.

Some quotes: v. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them.

v. 17 Sanctify (make them holy, pure, blameless, set apart) them by the truth; your word is truth.

Meaning: Set them apart for the work I am sending them out to do (v. 18) you gave them this work by the Word of truth. (Though I will no longer be with them) The Word (and the Holy Spirit in them) will guide them in putting this work into effect.

Themes in this prayer:

v. 11,12,15 Jesus prays for the Father to protect us by the power of his name

v. 13 Jesus prays we will have the full measure of his joy in us. It is amazing that Jesus can be thinking of joy at this time.

John 17:20-26 Jesus prays not just for the apostles, but for all believers.

Here, the emphasis is on our love of one another and our unity with one another.

v. 21 …that all of them may be one. The Father in Jesus, Jesus in the Father, all of us in the Father, all of us in Jesus, Jesus in us, and all of us one with one another.

v. 22 …that they may be one as we are one.

That about sums it up.

So…. Remember our theme for the year. Coming Home!

What is Jesus’ prayer for the church? That we may be one!

What can we do to help that prayer be fulfilled? Come to midweeks!

v. 23 How will the world know we are the true church that Jesus died for and that Jesus loves them?

…that they may be brought to complete unity. Our love sandwiches yesterday.

Our Trulywed game yesterday. Our singles devotional yesterday. Your passion devo with the campus.

But what if there is a personality conflict? But what if there is a strong difference of opinion? But what if there is unresolved bad feelings?

…that they be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know.

If you have any unresolved issues, you need to get them resolved the Matthew 18 way, but if that does not work, get someone else in there.

This is Jesus’ last prayer for us!!!!

**John 18-19 John’s Passion Story**

Things to notice about the passion account in John:

Jesus is totally in control. He knows exactly what is happening and what he is doing.

John 18:4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?”

I, I AM He v. 5 (and all bow)

He has predicted what is happening Jn 18:9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

John 18:32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

In Jn 18 &19 (and also in John 17:12 by the way) many prophecies are noted to be fulfilled (unlike earlier in John, contrasted to Matthew) Why? The point is to show that Jesus knows **exactly** what he is doing. **He** is in control.

John 19:24 (when they divided the garments) This happened that the scriptures might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my garments among them… (Psalm 22:18)

John 19:28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” (Psalm 69:21)

John 19:36-37 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of his bones will be broken (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 22:17, Psalm 34:20), and as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.” (Zechariah 12:10)

This is so that we will, on the one hand be convicted by Jesus dying for us, but on the other hand, not forget that Jesus’ hour has come.

Note how bold he is with Annas as he confronts him. 18:20-21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. v. 23 If I said something wrong, testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?

Also, notice how he questions Pilate almost as much as Pilate questions him. (18:34 Is that your own idea, or did others talk to you about me?)

19:11 “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.”

Even in the very end, He gives up his spirit. Jesus even chooses the moment of his death. 19:30 “It is finished.”

John 17:1 Father, the hour has come.

**John Ch 20 Resurrection Appearances**

Mary Magdalene

Peter and “the other disciple (John)

Mary Magdalene again

The disciples (- Thomas)

The disciples, including Thomas

Summary:

John 20:21-22 Jesus breathed on them. He could not wait for Pentecost. He sent them out to do the work he had prepared them for.

John 20:26-31 Thomas finally believes. My Lord and my God!!

Jesus says to him (really to us!) Blessed are those who have not seen my glorification and still believe.

Note: vs 28 My Lord and my God! John begins and ends his gospel with a statement that Jesus is God.

John’s summary:

“These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God and that, by believing, you will have life in his name.

…that you may believe *pisteuete*  present subjunctive that you continue believing (principally for those who already believe?) Both!

And to God be the glory.

**[Ch 21 Epilogue**

An eighth miracle. This section appears to have been appended to the book, which has a very natural end with 20:31

An eighth sign… but note John tells us there were MANY more 21:25 Jesus did many other things as well.

Is it written by John? If anything it is more personal and more obviously by John than the rest of the gospel. 21:24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down.

Purpose of the epilogue: An eighth sign, but also to clear up the restoration of Peter and to belie the belief that John would not die until Christ returns

7 disciples are hanging out in Galilee. Have they abandoned Jesus? No, but they are back fishing.

Cast your nets on the right side…. Finally, John (the beloved disciple) recognizes Jesus. Peter is very fired up.

On shore, Jesus has already (miraculously?) begun cooking fish and bread like John 6

153 fish Details to show reader this is an eye-witness account.

What an amazing breakfast this must have been. Imagine being there. Jesus is very human here.

21:15-19 Jesus restores Peter to the preeminent place among the apostles.

Is there a great importance in the two uses of the word love? *philo vs agapas* Probably not because 1. John uses the two interchangeably and 2. They are speaking in Aramaic, which, like English, has one word for both concepts.

Three challenges “do you love me?” Why? Probably because of three denials.

Jesus: Feed my sheep. Peter to be a shepherd/elder

Jesus: You will die a martyr. Note: this was almost certainly written after Peter died (v. 19)

21-22 John is clearing up a misunderstanding in the church about this event.

v.]