

Jesus' Ultimate Desire for You

20 “I do not ask for these only,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
21 that they may all be one,
just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

22 The glory that you have given me
I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,
23 I in them and you in me,
that they may become perfectly one,
so that the world may know that you sent me
and loved them even as you loved me.

24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me,
may be with me where I am,
to see my glory that you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you,
I know you, and these know that you have sent me.

26 I made known to them your name,
and I will continue to make it known,
that the love with which you have loved me
may be in them, and I in them.”

Sermon Outline:

I. The Prayer: What does Jesus desire? Jesus desires for you to be with Him.

- A. The Peculiar Authority.
- B. The Breathtaking Tenderness.
- C. The Practical Significance.

II. The People: For whom does Jesus desire it?

- A. Those whom the Father has given the Son out of the world (24b).
- B. Those who believe in Jesus through the word of the Apostles (20).

III. The Purpose: Why does Jesus desire it?

- A. To behold His glory.
- B. To know His love.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Jesus' high priestly prayer in John 17:1-26 reveal the concerns of His heart as He was preparing to face the cross? If you had to articulate what some of His hopes and desires are for His disciples, what would you say? Which of these priorities of Jesus are missing from your life?
2. How do you think that Jesus' request in John 17:24 serves as the foundation of His promise in John 14:2-3?
3. Think on the various ways that our Lord describes you: disciples, servants, friends, brothers/sisters, treasured possession, portion, bride, and, in John 17:24, gift from the Father to the Son. How should knowing this affect your day-to-day lives? In other words, how should knowing that you are the Father's gift to the Son change you personally?
4. We practically experience God's grace by believing what He says about Himself and about us. Why do you think we struggle with this? In what are you prone to root your identity, worth, and value other than the Lord and His love?
5. What should be the practical implications of Jesus Christ not ceasing to pray until you are safely home with Him? How should it encourage you to know that when Satan is tempting you that Jesus is praying for you?
6. If John 17:24 serves as Jesus' ultimate and final request for us, what should be the primary agenda for our lives now? (Examine the following Scriptures: Psalm 27:4; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 4:6)
7. In light of the following: "None shall behold Christ's glory by sight in heaven that do not first behold it by faith on earth," how do you grow in your ability to gaze upon our Lord's glory and beauty? To help with this discussion use the following quotes from Tim Keller's book, Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God:

To behold the glory of Jesus means that we begin to find Christ beautiful for who he is in himself. It means a kind of prayer in which we are not simply coming to him to get his forgiveness, his help for our needs, his favor and blessing. Rather, the consideration of his character, words, and work on our behalf becomes inherently satisfying, enjoyable, comforting, and strengthening.

"If we don't behold the glory of God in the face of Christ then something else will rule our lives."

8. If enjoying the satisfying beauty of the Lord will be our eternal delight, the greatest reward we can ever be given, then let us pray for ourselves and for one another that the Lord will unveil His beauty to our sight so that we might know His love and love Him in a manner worthy of Him.

Going Deeper

1. Take a few moments to reflect on and pray through the following devotional thoughts from our sermon text:

Robert M. M'Cheyne, a Scottish preacher during the 1800s, preached on John 17:24 and said these striking words:

"In truth, Christ cannot lack you. You are his his crown.
Heaven would be no heaven to him, if you were not there."
You are his crown of beauty (Isaiah 62:3).
You are the apple of his eye (Deuteronomy 32:10),
his treasured possession (Exodus 19:5),
his portion (Deut. 32:9), and his bride (Rev. 21:9).
These wonderful truths should cause our hearts to soar
with inexpressible joy, wonder and praise!

2. In part three of his book The Weight of Glory, C.S. Lewis highlights five basic promises that the scriptures make about heaven. Take time to reflect on and pray through these truths:

- ◆ "that we shall be with Christ" (John 17:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)
- ◆ "that we shall be like Christ" (1 John 3:1-3)
- ◆ "that we shall have 'glory'" (Romans 8:18, 21)
- ◆ "that we shall be fed and feasted"(Isaiah 25:6-9)
- ◆ "we shall have some sort of official position in the universe" (Revelation 5:10)