

Teach us to Pray  
“A Prayer for Perilous Times”

**Introduction:** John 14-16—Farewell Discourse

- ✓ Imminent departure, promise of Comforter, warning of trials/tribulation coming
- ✓ Sobering close to John 16

*These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33 NKJV*

- ✓ Discourse in upper room prior to foot washing/Last Supper
- ✓ After supper went to Mount of Olives—Gethsemane
- ✓ “Not my will”—prayer well known
- ✓ John 17 prayer (less known) “High Priestly” or intercessory prayer

That is chronological context. What about—emotional/spiritual context?

Leon Morris—“*And now, as evil men are about to do their worst to him, he looks for the Father to glorify Him again the same way.*”

The prayer of Jesus was clearly a prayer for perilous times!

- It informs our prayer lives
- Especially in perilous times (we now live)

Three movements in His prayer

**I. He prayed for a personal consecration that is deepened in the midst of evil opposition.**

*Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. 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. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. John 17:1-5 NKJV*

A. Posture and address (1)

1. Eyes toward heaven
2. “Father”-child to parent-six times in prayer

B. The hour has now come (1)

1. Cross is immediate prospect
2. All of His ministry has moved toward Calvary
3. He prayed to be glorified, even through the cross, the universal object of shame

C. Rehearsed His responsibility and obedience

1. Authority over all flesh-confer eternal life
2. Done all you asked, “finished the work”
3. I have always brought glory to you!

D. The most perilous moment before Him—cross

1. Glorify me with yourself
2. With pre-incarnate glory (NOTE: John 1:14-greater than this!)

IN MOST PERILOUS MOMENT-PRAYER FOR DEEPEST CONSECRATION

Apply:

- Perilous days-many hide, run away, shrink, cower
- Jesus had just promised trial (16:33)
- Glorify me like never before
- Is that our prayer?

## II. He prayed for the unique people of God to emerge as a powerful force against an evil culture.

*"I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. 7 Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. 8 For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. 9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. 11 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. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. John 17:6-19 NKJV*

A. This part of prayer devoted to His followers—especially 12

1. Promised departure/Comforter
2. Knew they would be lost without Him
3. Prayed they would emerge strong in His absence

B. Recalls their privileged position

1. Had His name (glory) magnified
2. Had been given His Word, teachings, Kingdom secrets (8)

C. Very special object of His prayer

*"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. John 17:9 NKJV"*

1. I am leaving-but they must stay
2. World hates them because they hated me
3. They are not of the world-just like I am not

NOTE: Easy to grasp with Jesus—essential being is heavenly (He is God become flesh)

- But disciples? Born into the world.
- To Nicodemus—must be born again.

D. Make them effective in this evil world

*I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. John 17:15-18 NKJV*

1. Don't take them out of the world. Keep them in it!
2. Sanctify them! (Make them clearly set apart)
3. Let them go into the world just as I did!

E. In perilous times church must not shrink back (can't hide, try to escape, turn inward, or spend time analyzing culture)

Our prayer:

1. Keep us!
2. Sanctify us!
3. Use us!

- Prayed for deepened consecration
- Prayed for people of God to emerge strong

### III. He prayed for a people, unified by love, to demonstrate the glory of God to an evil world.

*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 NKJV*

*"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 "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. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them." John 17:20-26 NKJV*

IMPORTANT: Prayer is for “oneness”-unity

TRUTH: Unity, like nothing else, demonstrates the power of Christ to the lost world

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 NKJV*

- A. Not a call to destroy churches or denomination
  - 1. Ecumenical movement
  - 2. Least common denominator
- B. Not a prayer that they become one but that they continually “be one”
- C. It is a unity that comes only by abiding in Christ, in unity with the Father/Son

Leon Morris—*“It is the Divine unity of love that is referred to, all wills bowing in the same direction, and affirmations burning with the same flame, and aims directed to the same end—one blessed harmony of love.”*

(ILL) One turning fork or 100

D. This unity is analogous to the unity of the Father, Son, and Spirit

*That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. John 17:21 NKJV*

1. Devoted to one another
2. Glorify one another
3. Then the world sees

**Conclusion:** As Jesus faces the perilous times-He prayed

1. Deepened personal consecration
2. Let the Church emerge powerful
3. Unify us in love

This must be our prayer