

THE RED LETTER LECTURES

LEARNING TO PRAY FROM THE WORDS OF JESUS

The Prayer of Jesus For His Disciples

I. **I have revealed Your name to the men You gave Me from the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. — Jn. 17:6**

A. *I have revealed Your name . . .*

1. Reveal means to manifest something to make it apparent, to show openly.
2. How did Jesus reveal God to His disciples? See *Jn. 2:11, 10:30, 14:9, 15:15*.
3. Is that a pattern that we can follow in revealing God to others?
4. A name in Scripture implies something significant about someone.
5. It's synonymous with the character and personality of the person.
6. In the Bible names are even changed to reflect a new purpose of someone. Can you think of any?
7. There are many titles given to God but His name is revealed to us. See *Exo. 3:13-15*.
 - a. *Ehyeh-Asher-Ehyeh* translated in the Hebrew Scriptures, "I Am That I Am"; "I Am Who I Am"; "I Will Be What I Will Be".
 - b. This is translated most often as YHWH or LORD in the OT because it is traditionally associated with the Hebrew verb *hayah*, which means, "to be."¹⁵

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Prayer Quote: "Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our persons, but they are helpless against our prayers."
— Sidlow Baxter

Jn. 2:11: This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

Jn. 14:9: Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Jn. 10:30: I and the Father are one."

Jn. 15:15: I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Exo. 3:13-15: Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

¹⁵ Tanakh-The Holy Scriptures,

II. Now they know that all things You have given to Me are from You, because the words that You gave Me, I have given them. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me. — Jn. 17:7-8

- A. What is truth?
- B. 78x in the Gospels, Jesus makes this statement, "I tell you the truth."
- C. How do we communicate truth to others?
 - a. We first must have the truth. *See Jn. 14:6.*
 - b. Truth must be revealed openly with power and conviction. *See 1 Th. 1:4-5; Mt. 10:27.*
 - c. Truth must be received.
 - d. Truth must be believed.
 - e. One more step.

III. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those You have given Me, because they are Yours. All My things are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I have been glorified in them. — Jn. 17:9-10

- A. Why did Jesus pray specifically for His disciples at this point and not for the world?
- B. Does Jesus pray for you? *See Heb. 7:25.*
- C. The Holy Spirit also prays for you. How? *See Rom. 8:26-27.*

IV. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are one. While I was with them, I was protecting them by Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of

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Jn. 14:6: Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

1 Th. 1:4-5: For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

Mt. 10:27: What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.

Heb. 7:25: Therefore he (Jesus) is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

Rom. 8:26-27: In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

**destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.
— Jn. 17:11-12**

A. *Your name that you have given me . . .*

1. Jesus repeats this statement twice in regard to receiving His Father's name.
2. We have learned that God's name is Yahweh. Is this also the name of Jesus?
3. The names of Jesus by language.
 - a. Jesus - English
 - b. Iesous - Greek
 - c. Yeshua - Hebrew, taken from Yah (Yahweh) + hoshua (savior)
4. Lit., Jesus means, "Yahweh the Savior" or "Yahweh saves."

B. *I guarded them . . .*

1. A warden, a guard charged with keeping an eye on someone. To observe attentively.
2. Believers are the apple of God's eye.
See Psm. 17:8-9; Zech. 2:8. Jn. 10:26-29.

V. Now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy completed in them. I have given them Your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, as I am not of the world. I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, as I am not of the world.

— Jn. 17:13-16

A. *The world hated them because they are not of the world . . .*

1. To hate someone in the biblical meaning implies active ill will in words or conduct, a persecuting spirit. ¹⁷

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Psm. 17:8-9: Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings from the wicked who assail me, from my mortal enemies who surround me.

Zech. 2:8: . . . for whoever touches you touches the apple of his eye.

Jn. 10:26-29: I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

¹⁷ Zodhiates, p. 987.

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2. Read Jn. 15:18-23.

B. *protect them from the evil one . . .*

1. Another designation for the devil. See *Mt. 6:13*.

VI. **Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. I sanctify Myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth. — Jn. 17:17-19**

A. *Sanctify them by the truth . . .*

1. Sanctify means to make holy, clean, render pure; to clearly be set apart from something else. A clear distinction that can be seen with no gray areas.

B. *Your word is truth.*

1. There is no clearer statement in all of Scripture as to the meaning, purpose and integrity of God's word.

C. *I also have sent them into the world . . .*

1. We are called out of the world, to go into the world with truth.

2. We are called to be separate from the world. See *1 Jn. 2:15-16*.

D. *so they also may be sanctified by the truth.*

1. Knowing God's Word sets a believer apart in the world.

2. Jesus asks the father to set us apart by the truth. Then He tells us what truth is.

VII. Paraphrase of Jn. 17:6-19, from *The Message*:

I spelled out your character in detail to the

1 Jn. 2:15-16: Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

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men and women you gave me. They were yours in the first place; then you gave them to me, And they have now done what you said. They know now, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that everything you gave me is firsthand from you, for the message you gave me, I gave them; and they took it, and were convinced that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

I pray for them. I'm not praying for the God-rejecting world but for those you gave me, For they are yours by right. Everything mine is yours, and yours mine, and my life is on display in them. For I'm no longer going to be visible in the world; they'll continue in the world while I return to you.

Holy Father, guard them as they pursue this life that you conferred as a gift through me, so they can be one heart and mind as we are one heart and mind. As long as I was with them, I guarded them in the pursuit of the life you gave through me; I even posted a night watch. and not one of them got away, except for the rebel bent on destruction (the exception that proved the rule of Scripture).

Now I'm returning to you. I'm saying these things in the world's hearing so my people can experience My joy completed in them. I gave them your word; the godless world hated them because of it, because they didn't join the world's ways, just as I didn't join the world's ways. I'm not asking that you take them out of the world but that you guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world. Make them holy—consecrated—with the truth; Your word is consecrating truth. In the same way that you gave me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world. I'm consecrating myself for their sakes so they'll be truth-consecrated in their mission.