**The Model Prayer – John Chapter 17 – M. Wade, 12/26/21**

**John 16:1-4** – The disciples are told they will face some tough times. Jesus provides them instructions in the rest of **John Chapter 16**. Then He prays, what I call, **The Model Prayer** in **Chapter 17**. I want to focus on that prayer this morning.

Prayer is a gift and a blessing from God. And Jesus being born living, dying, and raising from the dead has become our Great High Priest. We can pray directly to God through Him, in His name (**Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:14-16**). He hears our thankfulness, our praise for Him, and we can ask Him to help us with whatever we need. We can also pray for others who need physical, mental, or spiritual help (**Philippians 4:6-7**).

Have you ever intensely prayed for something? Prayer gave me Beth, having kids, Daniel the night before he was baptized, kids get married, grandkids coming into the world, looking for a job, when you are struggling as a parent or struggling in your marriage, when you see others in need, or you see other brethren struggling with their faith, when you are not sure how to talk to someone or study with someone, when something good happens you give thanks, when you have sin you repent, when you are sick or others are sick; You Pray! **Yesterday: my Dad.**

Prayer is powerful and is to be used often. Some of us take a few moments at 9am each morning to pray together. We have been doing this for 21 months and it has been a great thing for us all! Jesus is getting ready to leave His disciples and he prays about it!

**Read Chapter 17**

Prays for Himself – **17:1-5** (**John 1:1-5, Hebrews 1:1-2, Genesis 1:26**)

Prays for the Apostles – **17:6-19** (**John 6:66-71, Acts 5:28-32**)

Prays for us – **17:20-26** (**Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16**) – this is still the Lord’s desire

When you think about what the Lord did for you and I, it demands our obedience. He created all that we know. He created us and the world for our use. He knew we needed a Savior so He came to earth in the form of a man and was tempted more than any of us will ever be tempted. But he did it without sin so He could be our perfect sacrifice for our sins, the Lamb of God!

Then He allowed Himself to die on the cross, being crucified by those He created. He even asked for their forgiveness before He died. Then he overcame death by being resurrected and walked the earth for 40 days before He ascended to Heaven. Then He sent the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles in all truth. And on the day of Pentecost about 2,000 years ago, His church was started. And anyone, no matter what race or nationality could become a disciple and have their sins washed away.

And before He died He prayed for you and me! If you are not a Christian, the Master is calling you now to become a Christian. Repent of your sins and be baptized now, not tomorrow, not next week, not next year; but right now!

If you are a Christian who is not living up to the Lord’s expectations, He wants you to repent and do better right now!