

**Date:** March 24, 2026

**John Section:** John 17:1-26

**Key Text:** John 17:3

**Main Idea:** Jesus is Our One and Only High Priest

**Genre:** Theological Narrative

**Author:** John

**Audience:** Primarily second-generation believers, Jews, and Gentiles, needing encouragement and clarity about Jesus' identity.

**Setting:** Likely written from Ephesus, AD 85-95, in a context of synagogue opposition and emerging false teachings.

**Quote of the Week:** "Man is an enigma whose solution can be found only in God." - Herman Bavinck

3:30

## **John Preview:**

### **Highlight:**

The Gospel of John is a unique New Testament account of Jesus' life, written by the Apostle John, the beloved disciple. John's Gospel is not merely a biography but a theological portrait, revealing Jesus as the eternal Son of God who became flesh to bring life and light to the world. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels, John emphasizes signs and discourses that unveil Jesus' divine identity and mission. From the opening words—"In the beginning was the Word"—to the climactic resurrection appearances, John presents Jesus as the one in whom God's glory is revealed, calling all to believe in Him for eternal life. This Gospel is rich with imagery (light, life, bread, water, shepherd, vine) and repeatedly centers on the theme of belief.

### **Focus of John:**

- **Purpose of John:**
  - John tells us his purpose plainly: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31).
- **Themes in John:**
  - Jesus is the Word made flesh
  - Jesus reveals God's glory
  - Eternal life is found in Him alone
  - Belief is the way to life
  - Life flows only from union with Christ
- **Our Response to this Truth:**
  - Believe in Him – Abide in Him – Live by His Word – Trust in His promises – Love as He loved

## **Recap**

### John 17:1-5: Jesus Prays for Self

- After everything Jesus has said in chapters 14-16, all the comfort, warning, promise, and preparation, He does something you would think the Savior of the world wouldn't need to do, but in all humility, He now lifts His eyes to heaven and prays.
  - John 17 is often labeled the High Priestly Prayer, and for good reason, it is rather simple. Our Great High Priest prays. Jesus is not just speaking to His disciples here. He is speaking to the Father on behalf of His people.
- Jesus' prayer doesn't just come out of nowhere. It flows right out of everything Jesus has been saying.
  - Over the last few chapters, Jesus has been preparing His disciples for His departure.
    - He has promised them the Holy Spirit.
    - He has called them to abide in Him.
    - He has reminded them that in Him they have peace because He has overcome the world.
- Let us look at verses 1 and 2. We see some important language, as Jesus prays to heaven, He states a few simple things:
  - That His hour has finally come.
  - He asks that He may glorify the Father in His actions.
  - He also affirms the love the Father has for Him.
  - Jesus sees the hour of horror and suffering looming and seeks the Glory of the Father above it all.
- **How is the Father glorified through the Son in this prayer, and why does Jesus connect glory so closely to the cross?**
  
- We now move into what I would say is the key verse of this whole passage and one of the key verses in all of John's Gospel.
  - Verse 3: "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."
- When we think about eternal life, we often default to ideas like "we're in heaven," "there's no more suffering or sin," or "we worship forever."
- **What is Eternal Life? How might our view of Eternal Life be reshaped by John 17? (Write down as you listen and read)**

- Life is found only in Christ Jesus. Search all you want, continue to look for hope in the world, yourself, a significant other, activities, whatever it is, will ultimately fall short of the life found in our Savior.
- Let's look at the end of our first section and see Jesus words in verses 4-5:
  - "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed."
- Jesus speaks with complete confidence in the Father's plan, having perfectly fulfilled the mission given to Him.
  - This points us back even further, to the covenant of redemption, where the Father, Son, and Spirit purposed from eternity to accomplish our salvation. Jesus' mission did not begin in Bethlehem. He shared glory with the Father before the world existed.
    - He is the eternal Son, fully divine, sent on a mission to save His people.

### John 17:6-19: Jesus Prays for His Disciples

- As we move into verse 6, the focus begins to shift. Jesus moves from praying about His mission to praying for those the Father has given Him.
  - At first, this is clearly directed toward His immediate disciples, but as the prayer unfolds, it becomes evident that its implications extend far beyond just the eleven standing with Him.
- Jesus says in verse 6, "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word."
  - To say they "kept" His word does not mean perfect obedience. It means they received His word, trusted Him, and believed He came from the Father. Their faith was imperfect, but it was real.
- Two quick observations help us in this section.
  - "The world" refers to humanity in rebellion against God, not just the planet.
  - And while this prayer is for the disciples, it extends to all who will believe through their message.
- Jesus says in verses 7-8 that the disciples now recognize He came from the Father and that all He has is from Him. Their understanding is not complete, but it is real.
  - It seems they are beginning to see that Jesus uniquely reveals the Father, which is a rather big deal, considering exactly what that means in their context.
- We then see in verses 9-16, Jesus prays for their protection.
  - **Why does Jesus choose to leave His disciples in a world that will oppose them instead of taking them out of it?**

- **And what does His prayer reveal about what they most need in order to remain faithful there (in this fallen world)?**
  
- I can't read and talk about John 17, especially this passage, without thinking of one of my favorite hymns: Before the Throne of God Above:
  - As we read his prayer in verses 9-16, the connections write themselves:
    - When we sing, "I have a strong and perfect plea, a great High Priest whose name is Love," that is exactly what we are seeing in John 17. Jesus is actively praying for His people.
    - And when the hymn says, "My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart," it brings real weight to His words in verse 12: "While I was with them, I kept them in your name... I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost..."
    - YOUR name is graven on His hands and written on His heart. He loves you, and for all that the Father has given to the Son, there has never been a time when He has not loved you.
  - Then, when the hymn says, "When Satan tempts me to despair... upward I look and see Him there," it connects so clearly to Jesus asking the Father to keep us and protect us from the evil one.
    - Even "Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free" reminds us why we're no longer of the world. It just brings it all together. Jesus didn't just die for us and leave us; He's still praying for us, still keeping us, and that's where our confidence really comes from.
  - What we see and believe to be true in Scripture should be the same thing we're singing about.
- Jesus continues this glorious prayer with a well-known and encouraging request in verses 17-19:
  - "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth."
- Verse 17 is of such encouragement for us,
  - Jesus prays that His people would be sanctified, set apart, by the truth.
    - This is not just behavior modification or mere moral improvement, but the ongoing work of God setting His people apart through His truth.



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### Upcoming Events:

- **Main Lawn Event THIS THURSDAY NIGHT! Maybe ;)**
- **American Gospel Night - Sunday, April 12th at WBC**
- **Worship Night End of Year - Tuesday, April 21st at WBC**

### Other Helpful Resources:

- He Must Increase Podcast by Connor Shady & Adam Tredeau [often Josiah] (Official Podcast of 3:30!)
- Waukesha Bible Church (CONNOR'S SERMON) John 17 Sermon on YouTube

### Other Reminders:

- Get involved with a church - **Specifically WBC!**
    - **Connor and Adam are teaching: 9 AM Class on the Book of Romans at WBC prior to service.**
    - WBC service is at 10:00 AM every Sunday!
    - Check out our Website: [Threethirtyministry.com](http://Threethirtyministry.com)
  - Join the 3:30 GroupMe or WhatsApp chat to stay up to date on everything 3:30 Ministry.
  - Also check us out on Instagram: @three.thirty.ministries and @three.thirty.mens.ministry
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## ***The Gospel: We Can't, God Can, Jesus Did!***

- **Sin.** None of us can escape it. Because of it, we are spiritually dead and in need of life. Our debt before God is insurmountable. It is the biggest problem any of us has, since there is nothing we can do ourselves to pay that debt. God's standard is perfection, so no amount of good works or religious activities is enough.
  - 1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience - 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Ephesians 2:1-3)
- **But God...** These two words are some of the most powerful words in the Bible. God is merciful and loving. He did what we could never do in and of ourselves. He saved us by grace alone and gave us new life in Christ.
  - 4 **But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **Jesus saves.** He is God's gift to us. He paid our debt before the Father. And through his death and resurrection, we are raised to eternal life. There is nothing we can do to earn it. It is only through Christ that we live a life pleasing to God.
  - 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8-10)