

A Prayer Certain to Be Answered

Sunday, January 24th, 1993

John 17:24

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

I would like for you to open your Bible with me today, to the Book of John. I'm going to be reading a passage of scripture from the 17th Chapter of John. I don't know how many people would actually do this, but I will tell you that it would be a life long blessing if each of you would read the 17th Chapter of John. Read it carefully, read it prayerfully and ask God to open up to you that Chapter. I tell you, it is just a special, special portion of God's Word.

We need to become acquainted with this part of scripture. You see; this is our Lord's great priestly prayer. This is the Son talking with the Father. Our Lord Jesus Christ is speaking to the Father about Himself and about His redemptive work. He's also speaking about His people whom He came to redeem. That is what John 17 is all about.

"These words spake Jesus and lifted His eyes to heaven and He said, Father." He began to talk about Himself, about His glory, about His redemptive work and about His people. If I could just impress upon you the importance of this part of God's Word. I want you to sit awhile today, and read prayerfully, carefully and slowly, this 17th Chapter of John, and ask the Spirit of God to be your teacher.

I'm not going to try to preach from the whole chapter. Someone said one time; "It would take years of preaching to do justice to the 17th Chapter." If you have your Bible, turn there and look at verse 24; I'm just going to preach from this one verse. I will show you from this one verse how important this scripture is. I believe the blessing that you will get from this one verse will encourage you to read the rest of it.

Here is the title of the message: "A Prayer Certain to Be Answered". Here is a prayer that is absolutely certain to be answered, listen to it, *"Father, I will that they also, whom Thou has given Me, be with Me where I am that they also may behold My glory, for Thou lovest Me before the foundation of the world."* At the very beginning of this verse, *"Father I will that those whom Thou has given Me, be with Me where I am,"* these first three words are very unusual. No human lips have ever prayed like this before. No human lips have prayed like this since then. These first three words are so different and so unusual. Here is a man praying and saying, "This is what I will; this is what I want; I willed this."

Abraham was the friend of God and he got very near to God. The scripture says, *“God spoke to Abraham as a man speaks to a friend.”* Abraham never prayed this way; he never prayed this way at all. Listen to the way he prayed when he was interceding for Sodom and for Lot. He prayed this way, he said, *“I have taken upon myself to speak with God, I’m nothing but dust and ashes.”* He said it very humbly. He never said, “I will that you spare Sodom.” He didn’t say to the Father, “This is what I want you to do; I want you to spare Sodom.” These men always prayed that God’s will to be revealed to them. Here, the Lord Jesus says, *“Father, this is what I will.”*

Jacob had power with God. God named him Prince, and said to him, *“Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, Prince with God.”* The boldest words that Jacob ever used were these: *“I will not let Thee go, unless Thou bless me.”* He never prayed, *“I will.”*

Daniel was a man of prayer. He was a man whom God honored and yet Daniel said, when he prayed, *“O Lord, righteousness belongs to Thee, but unto us confusion of face.”*

The apostle Paul was a man of prayer. He never prayed this way. He always prayed as a humble sinner before God.

When this man Jesus Christ prayed, He said, *“Father, I will, that they also whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am.”* This is what *“I will.”* How can this man be so bold? How can he pray this way? Here is the reason: First of all, he said, *“I and My Father are one.”* This man is the God-man. *“He thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”* In fact, Paul wrote about Him and said, *“Great is the mystery of Godliness; God was manifest in human flesh.”* Paul said, *“God was in Christ.”*

John said, *“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father.”* Isaiah said, *“A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son and thou shall call His name Immanuel, (God with us).”* So, Jesus Christ could say, *“Father, this is My will,”* because He and the Father are one. *“He thought it not robbery to be equal with God.”*

Secondly (and this is where we run into trouble), His will and the Father’s will are one. What Christ willed was what the Father willed. He said, *“I came down from heaven not to do My own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.* This is My will and it is His will, *“And this is the will of Him which has sent Me, that all which He hath given me; I will lose nothing.”* He said in Hebrews 10, *“Lo, in the volume of the book, it is written of Me; I come O God to do Thy will, by the which will we are sanctified once for all by the*

offering of Jesus Christ.” This man according to the will of God perfected forever them that are sanctified. So, He and the Father are one, His will and the Father’s will are one.

Then, He prayed this way; He prayed as the Redeemer who had fulfilled all that the Father gave Him to do. You and I can’t pray that way. *“We’ve sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Christ said, *“I have glorified thee on this earth.”* That is a totally different way of praying. *“We have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* No man on this earth, in human flesh has ever accomplished the glory of God, except Christ. He said, *“I have glorified you on this earth; I have finished the work you gave Me to do.”* Therefore, He could pray, *“I will.”* Do you see that, *“Father I will.”*

Another thing in verse 6, He says, *“I manifested your name. No man knoweth the Father but the Son and He to whom the Son will manifest or redeem.”* Another thing He says, *“I have given Thy Word to the men which thou gavest me; I have kept those whom Thou gavest Me. I have done all you gave me to do.”* And He did it perfectly!

“I’ve been tempted in all points, yet without sin. Which of you can convince Me of sin?” He said, *“I’ve done all that the law requires; I’ve fulfilled all that justice demanded, so I’m entitled to have what I purchased.”* That’s right! *“He who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things? He shall see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many for He shall bare their iniquities.”*

Oh yes, it is impossible that this prayer should not be answered. It’s impossible that this prayer should not be fully answered and His will be fully accomplished, because He said, *“I know the Father always hears me because I always do those things that please my Father.”*

The beginning of this prayer ought to catch our attention. Here is the God-man praying, *“Father, I will.”* He could pray that way because He and the Father are one. He said, *“He that hath seen Me, hath seen My Father.”* He could pray that way because His will and the Father’s will are one. He could pray that way because He has done everything that God required of a man, perfectly. His prayer will certainly be answered.

All right, here we have a prayer before us that will be answered. It shall be done! Isaiah said, *“He cannot fail; He cannot be discouraged.”*

Here is the next question. For whom does He pray? Here is the Son, He’s talking to the Father, here is the great Prophet, Priest and King, and here is the great King of the Kingdom. He’s asking that someone be with Him where He is and that someone shall

behold His glory, *“the glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* Now, who are these people for whom He prays?

Well, He tells you no less than six times. That is the reason I want you to read this chapter. He tells you no less than six times for whom He prays in these 26 verses of this chapter. Look at verse 9. Have you ever seen this verse before in John 17:9? Look at it carefully in your Bible. He says, *“I pray for them, I pray not for the world.”* Christ said, *“I don’t pray for everybody; I don’t pray for the world.”* If He prayed for the world, He would have the world. If He prayed for everybody, He would have everybody because His prayer must be heard. His prayer must be answered because He cannot pray contrary to the Father. He says, *“I don’t pray for the world; I pray for them.”*

Who are these people (*them*)? Look at the next line. *“I pray for them which thou hast given me for they are Thine and all Mine are Thine and Thou gavest them Me.”* Do you see that, *“I pray for them?”* He uses that phrase over and over and over again, six times in this passage.

Look at verse two: *“Thou hast given Me power over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Me. I pray not for the world; I pray for them which Thou hast given Me because you have given Me power (authority) over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as Thou hast given Me.”*

Look at verse six: *“I’ve manifest Thy name.”* To whom? *“Unto those, which Thou hast given Me.”*

Look at verse 11: *“Father, I pray for them; keep through Thine own name those whom Thou hast given Me.”*

Look at verse 12: *“I have kept them in Thy name.”* I have kept whom? *“I’ve kept them which Thou hast given Me. Those, which Thou hast given Me, I have kept and none of them are lost.”*

Now, look at verse 24, our text: *“Father, I will, this is My will.”* This is the Son’s will and this is the Father’s will. This is the will that shall be done. Daniel wrote, *“He doeth according to His will in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.”* This is what Paul wrote in Ephesians One, *“He worketh all things after the council of His own will.”*

In other words, the Lord Jesus declares that the Father has the same interest in these people as He has because they are the Father's people too. *"Father I will that those whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am."*

Look back at verse 9 again: What did He say? *"I pray for them, Father I will that those whom thou hast given Me, I pray for them; I pray not for the world; I pray for them which thou hast given Me for they are Thine."* This is why I pray for them; they are Yours and all Yours are Mine. (Thine are Mine and Mine are Thine; what is Mine is Yours). He said, *"My sheep hear My voice and I give them eternal life and they will never perish. My Father which gave them to Me is greater than all and no man can pluck them out of My Father's hand; I and My Father are one. My Father gave them to Me and what is Mine is His and what is His is Mine."* That's the reason this prayer shall certainly be answered.

Let me ask you this question. Is there a mark whereby these people may be known? I know that God knows them because He said, *"I know My sheep and am known of mine."* Is there any way that others may know them? Is there any way that they may know that they are His sheep and His people and one to whom the Father hath given to the Son? Is there any way you can know and I can know? Oh yes, there is a certain mark. Do you know what it is? (They come to Christ). He said in John 6:37: *"All that My Father giveth Me will come to Me."* They will come believing; they will come confessing; they will come converted; they will come lovingly; and they will come willingly, but they will come to Christ, they will come to Christ. In Psalm 110:3 it says, *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power."* They will come.

I'm not saying that they must come to the front of a church, come to a preacher or come to an altar; they come to Christ. He said in Matthew 11:28, *"Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."* "You come to Me," He said. This is a sure mark of those people for whom Christ prayed and was given to Him by the Father; they will come to Him. *"As many as believed on Him to them gave He the privilege to become the Sons of God."*

The second mark of these people is this: They love Christ. *"Whom having not seen, He loved. Though you see Him not, yet now you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory."* He said, *"Peter do you love Me? Yea Lord, You knowest I love Thee. Then, feed My sheep."*

That is the bond between the Saviour and His people. He loves them and they love Him. *"We love Him because He first loved us."* One of the apostles said, *"If any man love not*

the Lord Jesus Christ; let him be accursed. Let him be Anathema, Maranatha,” (under a curse; the Lord is coming)! They come to Christ, and they love Christ.

I’ll tell you another mark: They love each other. *“By this, shall all men know that you are my disciples if you love one another. He that loveth not knoweth not God. God is love.”*

Another mark of these people is that they walk with Christ. They are identified with Christ. They confess Him. It says, in Romans 10: *“If thou wilt confess with thy mouth, Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead; thou shalt be saved.”*

So, there is a mark. They may be known. They may know that they know Christ and they may be known that they know Christ, because they come to Him. *“All that the Father giveth Me shall come to Me and him that cometh to Me, I will in no wise cast out.”* They love Christ; they love each other and they walk with Christ.

All right, here is the third thing that I want to mention from this prayer. Well, what does He ask for them; what does He pray for them? Look at it; there are two great and wonderful and marvelous things. First, He says, *“That they may be with Me where I am. I pray that all whom you have given Me be with Me where I am.”* Where is He?

Hebrews One says, *“He’s at the right hand of the Majesty on High.”* He’s within the heavens and He’s within the veil. He’s in the presence of the Father. He’s on the right hand of God and He prays that we might be with Him there. You know, that is what He said to His disciples before He went to the cross and arose from the grave. He said, *“I go to prepare a place for you and if I go to prepare a place for you; I will come again and receive you unto Myself that where I am, there you may be also.”*

Father, let’s pray, *“I will, that those whom thou hast given Me be with Me where I am.”* I’ll tell you this; to be with Him is to be like Him because no one can live in the presence of God who is not like Christ. He has to be perfectly holy. To be with Him is to be forever with Him. To be with Him is to never die because, *“The last enemy that He shall destroy is death.”* To be with Him is to be satisfied. David said, *“I’ll be satisfied when I awake in His presence and in His likeness. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Father, I will that all whom Thou hast given Me with me where I am.”*

Notice the next words, *“To behold my glory.”* He doesn’t say, “I want them to be with Me so that they can shake hands with Mother again and with one another again.” He’s

not saying to behold one another again and behold their own glory and works and count their crowns. He says, *“I want them to be with Me that they may behold My glory.”*

I’ll tell you, His glory is a three-fold glory. I’m in an area now that men know nothing (very little) about and that is the glory of God. I do know the glory of Christ is three-fold.

First: There is His original glory, majesty and brightness. *“He’s the brightness of the Father’s glory.”* He said, *“Father, glorify Me with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was.”* You don’t know anything about that and I don’t either. He said in Proverbs 8: *“I was daily His delight with Him before He made the stars, before He made the earth, I was with Him and was daily His delight.”* There is something about His original glory. We are going to get to see some of that.

Secondly, there’s His redemptive glory. *“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory.”* What glory is He talking about? He’s talking about His redemptive glory, the glory of His mercy, the glory of His grace, and the glory of His redemptive work. John said, *“I saw Him, I heard Him, I touched Him.”* The Word of life, the eternal life, which I saw, I declare unto you. Moses says, *“Show me your glory. God says; I will be merciful.”* That’s My glory and My goodness. *“I’ll be merciful unto whom I will.”* I see that redemptive glory in Christ.

Thirdly: There is His eternal glory. It says, *“The God of all grace who has called you to His eternal glory.”* I don’t know a lot about that but I do know that Paul went up to the third heaven one time and said, *“Whether I was in the body or out of the body; I don’t know, but I heard things that are not possible for me to utter.”* Now, that is glory! It is eternal glory. It is the glory that God talks about in Revelation 21 when He says that there will be no more pain, no more sickness, no more darkness, and no more night. There will be no more death. The former things are passed away. He says, *“I make all things new.”* God will dwell with them and they will be His people. He will wipe all tears from their eyes. That’s the glory I’m talking about! *“Father, I will, that all of those that You have given Me will be with Me where I am to behold My glory and behold it forever.”*

Watch this last line: Why should the Father do this for you and me? For what reason does the Lord Jesus ask the Father to cleanse us and forgive us and redeem us and receive us and let us stand in His presence and share the glory which Thou hast given Me? Christ says, *“I have given them.”* Why? He tells us right here, *“Father, I will that those whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am that they may behold forever, My glory for thou lovest Me before the foundation of the world.”*

He doesn't plead your works or my works. He doesn't plead your profession or my profession. He doesn't plead what you've done or what you've said. He doesn't plead for what you've given or how many souls you've won to say that you are worthy. He doesn't even plead God's love for you. He says, "*You do this for them for My sake because You love Me.*" The scripture says that in John 3:36, "*The Father loveth the Son and hath given all things into His hand. He that believeth on the Son hath life and He that believeth not the Son shall not see life. The wrath of God abideth on him.*" Christ said, "*You love them for My sake.*" You receive them for My sake. You look not on them, but You look on Me. You judge them not; you judge Me. Bless them for My sake. Love them for My sake. Receive them for My sake. You do this because You love Me.

I have three children, daughter-in-laws, son-in-laws, and some grandchildren. If they were to ask me, "Father would you do this for me?" I would say, "If there's anything I can do, I will do it for you. I will do anything in my power for you." Let me tell you something, "*If you being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more should your Heavenly Father give good things to them that ask Him?*" This one who is asking Him or telling Him what He wants, what He wills, is His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. I'll tell you this, He prays for me and He prays for you. He said, "*You bless them because you love Me.*"

I heard about a preacher saying this week that "He made a reservation in heaven 40 years ago." I'll tell you this; I hope he didn't make it in his name. That reservation has to be made by Christ, in His name, for Christ's sake. That is the only way that God will ever save, love, keep or glorify any son of Adam. It is for Christ's sake! He tells us in Ephesians 4:32, "*Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*"

God will bless His people for Christ sake!