

SERMON OUTLINE John 17:11-19

I Am Praying for Your Time in the World

IN RELATION TO THE WORLD

The World

Jesus

The Disciples

JESUS' PRAYERS FOR HIS DISCIPLES

1. *Perseverance (11 12)*

2. *Unity (11)*

3. *Joy (13)*

4. *Faithfulness (14)*

5. *Protection (15)*

6. *Sanctification (17, 19)*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of the passage is that Jesus was leaving, the disciples were staying, and, therefore, they needed specific help to continue living according to the Word Jesus had given them. The primary takeaways for us are to consider carefully our relationship to the world, and within that, to seek the things Jesus prayed for above everything else (perseverance, unity, joy, faithfulness, protection, and sanctification).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Are you able to restate the big idea of this passage in your own words?
3. How have people tried to define you throughout your life? How have you tried to define yourself?
4. Had you ever considered your relationship to the world as one of the primary aspects of your identity?
5. How would you describe your relationship to the world? How has it changed over time? How does it relate to Jesus' prayer?
6. How do you typically respond to people of the world? Overtly hostile to God? Rich and "moral? Hedonistic? Poor and proud?
7. How would you describe the world's relationship to you? How has it changed over time? Consider the groups listed above.
8. What do you make of the title, "Holy Father"? Do you typically consider both of those aspects of God's nature together?
9. Understanding your changed and changing relationship with the world and the world's growing hostility toward you because of it, what would you hope Jesus would ask of the Father for you?
10. Of Jesus' three requests on the disciples' behalf that we considered this week, which would you most like God to grant you?
11. Which of Jesus' three requests have you found easiest to come by as you seek to bring the gospel to the world? Most elusive?
12. Are there any specific ways in which you are seeking to cultivate perseverance, unity, or joy at Grace Church?
13. In what ways did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

14. At the end of one day this week, make a list of all the significant things you did. Mark any that were "of the world." Repent.
15. Find one way to help another Christian persevere in their faith and grow in the joy of the Lord this week.
16. Confess any ways in which you have contributed to disunity and find a specific way to promote unity at Grace this week.
17. Share the gospel with someone who is still in and of the world.
18. Ask two different people in your family or DG (1) One thing they got from this sermon, and (2) How you can pray for them.
19. Ask God to show you one specific thing you ought to do differently as a result of this text or sermon? Share that and pray about it with someone in your DG. Continue praying for and checking in with each other until you've both done it.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God for being Holy Father. Praise God for being Creator of the world. Praise God for being perfectly unified within the godhead. Praise God that He is always faithful and truthful. Praise God for being sovereign, wise, and good.
21. Confess. Confess any ways in which you are consistently living "of the world". Confess any ways in which you have considered giving up, fostered disunity, forsaken the joy of the Lord, or given yourself to something other than Jesus' mission.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for granting perseverance, unity, and joy. Thank God that one day He will create a new world in which it will no longer be possible to be "of it". Thank God for giving us His Word, which is truth.
23. Supplication. Ask God to make our church increasingly not "of the world." Ask God for the things Jesus asked Him for in this passage. Ask God to help us humbly long for heaven. Ask God to strengthen the weak and save the lost among us.