**What Jesus Wants for Us**

**John 17:20-21**

**Introduction:**

**I. Very often, we are greatly concerned about what we want for ourselves.**

A. As the holidays approach, the little children remind Santa, their parents, and everyone who will listen: “This is what I want…”

B. We should not be too surprised at this; as adults, we have taught them well.

**II. This morning, (as well as every day), we should not be concerned about what we want, but “What Jesus Wants for Us.”**

A. Hopefully, we will realize that what Jesus wants…is what we should want!

**III. The text for our study is John 17 – the beautiful prayer of Jesus.**

A. If we outline the prayer we will see:

1. Jesus prays for **himself** (vv. 1-5)

2. Jesus prays for **his disciples** (vv. 6-19)

3. Jesus prays for **his later disciples** (vv.20-26)

B. Note verse 9 – “I pray for them: I pray not for the world.”

1. This does not mean that He’s not interested in the world (Luke 19:10) *“for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

2. This is the great interceding High Priest of the New Covenant.

a. (1Tim. 2:5) *“one mediator…between God and men, - Christ Jesus”*

b. (Heb. 7:25) *“ever liveth to make intercession”*

3. In this lesson our only focus - is that you know and appreciate what Jesus asked the Father for - what He wants for us.

**Discussion:**

**I. He Wants Us To be Kept**

A. He wants us to be kept (vv. 11-12) – also (v. 15) *“from the evil one.”*

B. This is not the idea of “eternal security” as some teach

1. Satan would “sift” Peter

2. Satan would “claim” Judas

3. Satan would make Thomas “doubt.”

4. But all of this was of their own allowances!

C. This is speaking of separation from evil.

D. We should understand that this includes both God’s part and man’s part:

1. Gods part (1Cor. 10:13) God answered Jesus’ prayer.

2. Man’s part (1John 5:18) I must endeavor to keep myself as Jesus did.

3. Paul understood (2Tim. 1:12) what he did and what God would do.

**II.** **He wants Us To have Full Joy (v. 13)**

A. Note: He wants us to have *“my joy made full in themselves.”*

B. Why do we have so much trouble finding this?

1. It is not because Jesus did not want us to have it.

2. It’s not because God did not answer His prayer.

3. It is because we don’t want *His joy!*

a. His joy was not affected by the things of the surrounding world.

b. Think of what was happening to Him this very night!

c. He had learned joy in the Father’s will (Heb. 5:8-9).

d. Our joy is often based on circumstances/our will.

4. When we truly seek the Father’s will in our lives, we will have His joy.

1. (Phil. 4:4) *“****Rejoice in the Lord*** *always. Again I will say, rejoice!”* (“in the Lord” not in the world).

2. (James 1:2-4) because we know the outcome of trials, etc.

5. God will do His part, we do ours?

6. Consider your situation, then think of this: Jesus wants you to have full joy.

**III. He Wants Us to Be Sanctified (vv. 17,19)**

A. Meaning: consecrate/totally holy (John 15:3) *“ye are clean”*

B. How?

1. His blood cleanses (Eph. 1:7)

2. The truth purifies

3. This also demands separation

C. Many fail to appreciate what Jesus wants for us: sanctification.

1. Say: “Don’t want to be holier than thou.”

2. Jesus says if we are not, we are good for nothing (Mat. 5:13-16).

3. Jesus wants us to be special; God has done His part, will we do ours?

**IV. He Wants Us to Be One (VV. 20-23)**

A. Note: this is unity, and it is to be **in Christ.**

B. The Savior stated two reasons why He wants us to be one:

1. That the world might believe Christ was sent by God (21)

2. That the world might believe that God loves us (23)

C. It is sad the treatment this request receives from denominationalism.

1. Many speak of this unity as though it has never been found.

2. This prayer was answered in the days of the early church (Acts 2:46ff)

3. It is fulfilled today when we are what God wants us to be.

D. God has done His part, we must do ours (Eph. 4:3) “endeavor to keep”

**V. He Wants Us to Be with Him (v. 24)**

A. Certainly, this is true spiritually (Eph. 2:6) “seated with Him in the heavenly place.”

1. (Col. 3:1ff) why we seek the things that are above.

B. But believe this is also truly literally

1. (John 14:1-3) where I am, there you may be also.

2. (1 Pet. 1:4) an inheritance – reserved in heaven.

C. Illustration – “Wish You Were Here” cards.

1. Jesus wants us to be with him.

2. Wants us to behold the glory that he has.

D. God has made it possible for us to be there; will we do our part?

**Conclusion:**

**I. The Savior’s prayer has been answered, and continues to be answered.**

A. You can have these things!

**II. Think what it cost the Lord to give them to you!**

**III. Do not believe that I need to make an elaborate appeal. These things that we have just considered “The things Jesus Wants for You” should do that…**