



Devotional Study Guide • March 24, 2024 • The Place Was Shaken, Week 4

# Pray Like Jesus (John 17:1-26)

**INTRODUCTION-** In the journey of faith, prayer stands as the sacred bridge connecting the human heart to the divine, a conduit of grace that flows between God and His children. It is more than mere words; it is the language of the soul, a dialogue of love and longing with our Creator. This dialogue is beautifully exemplified in the life and teachings of Jesus, especially in the profound moments of prayer He shared with the Father. Among these, the prayer in John 17 stands as a beacon, revealing the heart of Jesus for His followers and for the world. **Prayer, at its core, is about a love relationship.** It's not merely a ritual or a wish list but an intimate communication with our Father, mediated by the Holy Spirit, and offered in the name of Jesus. Jesus' prayer in John 17 provides a profound insight into the nature of prayer, revealing its depth, its purposes, and its power to transform.

## Discussion Questions

- What are **the three distinct parts** of Jesus' prayer in John 17, and what does each part focus on?
- In John 17:11 and 22, Jesus prays for unity among his followers. What does this tell us about the **importance of community in prayer?**
- **Compare Jesus' approach** to prayer in John 17 to what he teaches the disciples on prayer in Matthew 6:9-13. What makes this prayer unique or similar?
- **How does Jesus' prayer reflect** his roles as both Son of God and High Priest? Consider the elements of intercession, sacrifice, and mediation.
- Jesus prays for those given to him by the Father (John 17:9-19) and for future believers (John 17:20-24). How does this model **the scope and inclusiveness of our prayers?**
- In what ways does Jesus' prayer **challenge contemporary understandings** of prayer as merely asking for personal needs?
- **Create a personal prayer strategy** that incorporates the elements of Jesus' prayer in John 17, focusing on glorifying God, intercession for others, and praying for unity.
- **Reflect on a time** when prayer significantly impacted your life. How does this experience relate to the aspects of prayer highlighted in Jesus' prayer?
- Considering Jesus' **emphasis on unity** in his prayer, how can we better pray for the global Christian community?
- How can the concept of praying **"to the Father, through/by the Spirit, in Jesus' name"** transform our daily prayer life?
- **Analyze the role of the Holy Spirit** in Jesus' prayer life and its implications for our prayer practices.
- Jesus prays for his followers to be sanctified in truth (John 17:17). Discuss how prayer **contributes to our sanctification** (becoming like Jesus) process.

**CONCLUSION-** In John 17, Jesus provides us with a masterclass in prayer, showcasing the depth of love, intercession, and desire for unity that characterizes true communion with God. By reflecting on and applying the principles found in Jesus' prayer, we are invited into a deeper, more transformative relationship with the Father, through the Spirit, in the name of Jesus. As we journey through our own prayer lives, **let us seek to echo the heart and intentions of Jesus**, drawing closer to the heart of God and inviting His kingdom to manifest on earth as it is in heaven.