



JOURNEY with JESUS

Jesus' Prayer for Us

Jessica Turner Waugh

As I was preparing for this devotional, it became apparent to me that nothing I would say could ever be as beautiful and thought provoking as Jesus's prayer. This chapter in John is an amazing gift of insight into the personal and intimate relationship between Jesus and God. Much like when we witness personal vows being said between a couple at their wedding...or getting to witness a mother or father seeing their child for the first time. A truly human, lived-in moment.

At the beginning of the prayer, Jesus prays for his own glorification through God. As he says in verse 5, "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

Then Jesus prays heartily for his disciples. Because, as he says in verse 6, "They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word." And in verses 17-19, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."

And now, I would like to read the rest of the prayer. This is the part where Jesus prays for all believers. So, for us.

John 17:20-26

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message,

that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

"Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me.

I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them."

Jesus prays for unity. Unity within the believers. And in this unity, people will know Jesus. And through Jesus, we will all know God.

May we always remember that there are no gatekeepers to God. That God is right there next to us. Loving us. Listening to us. He is immediate. Whatever is on our hearts, God will listen and wants to listen. For Jesus has “given us God’s glory so that we may be one as he and his Son are one” (v. 22 paraphrased).

To him be all Glory. Forever and Ever. Amen.