

beyond^{the}weekend

For the sermon on April 12-13, 2014
"Jesus' Final Prayer"



Welcome to *Beyond the Weekend!* The experiences below are designed to connect with the weekend message and fit a variety of learning styles. They provide additional readings from other sections of Scripture such as the Old Testament, Psalms, Gospels, and Epistles (letters). Take 20-30 minutes each day and enjoy your pursuit of God!



Prefer e-mail? *Beyond the Weekend* is also available via daily e-mails, which include links to the Scripture and the sermon video. To sign up for the daily e-mails, go to adabible.org/btw.

Day 1 John 17 | Jesus Prays Often

It shouldn't be surprising, moments before his arrest and the events leading to his crucifixion, we find Jesus praying. Scripture repeatedly shows Jesus in prayer and in communion with his Father: following healings (Luke 5.16), through the night (Luke 6.12), and in private (Luke 9.18). We learn not only are Jesus' prayers to be models for us (such as "The Lord's Prayer" in Luke 11.1-4), but so is his *practice* of prayer. It appears that *nothing* kept him from spending time with his Father.

In the same way our physical relationships suffer when there's a lack of communication, so does our spiritual relationship with God. We *need* to hear from him, which we do when we spend time in the Bible, and he desires—as our loving heavenly Father—to hear from us in prayer. If the eternal Son of God needed time with his Father, we need it even more!

Jesus' *practice* of prayer, specifically the priority he placed on it, serves as an example to us. Jesus prayed following great events and before incredible agony, morning and night, in public and private. Jesus prayed; we should pray. Today, identify one event in your weekly schedule for which you've neglected to pray. Pray for that event three times—morning, noon, and evening—asking God to use you at that time for his glory.

Day 2 Exodus 40.34-38 | Glory

As Jesus begins his final recorded prayer before his crucifixion, he clearly states the reason he came to earth, announced his kingdom, performed miracles, and ultimately suffered, died, and rose again: to bring glory to God the Father (John 17.1). That's it. Everything Jesus did and said was to bring glory to God.

It's this same "glory" John describes in John 1.14, "The Word [Jesus] became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his *glory*, the *glory* of the One and Only [God the Father], who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John's Jewish readers would have been amazed to read this verse. It would have reminded them of when God's *glory* filled the Tent of Meeting in the Old Testament and the visible presence of God was in their midst (Exodus 40.34-38)! Jesus brought God's glory to us as he brought glory to his Father.

When you review your day, review it through the lens of God's glory. Ask yourself, "Did I reflect God's glory in my thoughts, attitudes, and actions?" Where you did not, confess those to God and then ask for his power as you look ahead to tomorrow and new opportunities to reflect his glory.

Day 3 John 17.6-19 | Prays for Disciples

Recognizing he will soon leave them, Jesus prays for his disciples. For his first eleven followers, Jesus prays for three specific things: unity in the face of hostility (John 17.11), protection in a dangerous world, especially from Satan (17.15), and holiness as they live in a sinful world (17.16-19). He prays that they would be “sanctified” (17.17), aligned with God, and attached to his purposes and presence.

The only way this happens is through God’s Word (17.17). In a hostile, dangerous world the process for sanctification was through the truths in God’s Word. It’s true for us today as well. We can’t expect to be “aligned with God” if we’re not sure what he says. If you’ve not done so, begin the discipline of daily Bible reading or listening (in your car to/from work). For a Bible reading plan, go to: <http://www.adabible.org/grow/more-ways-to-grow/bible/>.

Day 4 John 17.20-26 | Prays for Believers

Not only was Jesus preparing to leave the world, but it wouldn’t be long before his original followers—the disciples—would be off the scene as well. In a very short period of time, people who’d never met Jesus would be responsible for carrying on his mission. To do this, they would need *unity*.

This unity, based on love, encompasses the Father with the Son, believers with them both, and believers with each other (this is “the church”!). Because Jesus has returned to the Father, it is now the church’s responsibility to show the world God’s glory (17.22). One reason for local church membership is that it visibly demonstrates unity to the world. Consider becoming a member of Ada Bible Church. To learn about the process, go to: <http://www.adabible.org/grow/membership/membership-faqs/>.

Day 5 John 17.25-26 | Rejection

Jesus closes his prayer by referring to God as “Righteous Father” (17.25). In doing so, he reminds us that it’s God’s righteousness that leads to his perfect judgment of the world. The problem is not access to the knowledge of God (the natural world shows us God exists—Romans 1.20), but the world’s rejection of Jesus as sent by God.

Jesus came not to condemn us, but to save us (John 3.17). Everything Jesus was about to endure, following this prayer, was to that end. On this Good Friday, take time to meditate on where you stand with Jesus. If you’ve been rejecting him, either totally or in one area of your life, now is the time to believe and repent. If you have questions, or need help in an area, contact Pastor Doug Redford at dredford@adabible.org.

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868.7005 | adabible.org