

## Jesus' Graduation Prayer      John 17

Did you know that Jesus prayed a prayer, that had you graduates in mind?

It wasn't a prayer to instruct you on how to pray, it was simply a prayer for you, as well as for all of us, who bear the name of Jesus Christ in this world!

Why then would I call it Jesus' "graduation prayer" if it is for all of us?

Because He spoke this prayer as He approached His own graduation – not from high school or college, but His graduation from this world!

This is the longest prayer of Jesus recorded in all the Bible, and to have it included in John's gospel in such length & detail speaks to the impact this prayer had on John himself and the rest of the disciples who overheard it!

Jesus was about to graduate from this earthly life, but He had one more final exam – the cross. But what was to come after? Resurrection, ascension, and a heavenly reception where He would receive all glory, honor & praise!

You graduates have been working hard over the last few years to get to this moment, to achieve this goal of finishing well! Congratulations you did it!

So too, had Jesus labored for 3 years to meet all the requirements of His graduation day, when His work here on earth would be finished. He not only finished well, He also graduated valedictorian with the highest honors!

If Jesus had the opportunity to give that speech at His graduation, I believe John 17 would be it - A prayer to His Father, on behalf of His followers!

**"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you..."**

Jesus was asking to receive glory for the purpose of glorifying His Father!

- Do we ask for things from God for the sake of bringing Him glory thru it?

**"You have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him."** Jesus received all authority, & what did He do with it?

- Do we use our status/positions as opportunities to pour life into others?

**"And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent."** Knowledge is important... some more than others!

Eternal life is found in knowing God, & Jesus Christ who makes Him known!

- What knowledge have you acquired & what knowledge are you seeking?

**"I have manifested your name to the people you gave me out of the world."**

Jesus' transcripts included successfully embodying the person of God!

- What do your transcripts say? What are you accomplishing w/ your life?

**"For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me."**

- What truths have you become convinced of in your life? What place does Jesus have in your system of beliefs (your worldview)?

**"I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me..."** Jesus is praying for all believers here – **vs. 20**

- What difference does it make knowing that Jesus was praying for you?

**"Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one."** Jesus prayed that we would bear His name, not on a shirt or a diploma, but with our lives!

- How are you bearing witness to Jesus Christ in your life?

**"I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world."** We are a set-apart people!

- You may be preparing for your place in this world, but this world will not be your friend if you are a friend of Jesus. Are you ready for that?

**"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."** God's truth is what we need!

- What place has God's Word had in your education? What place does it need to have in your life? **We never move on from this book!**

**"As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."** Jesus is not the only one who has been sent into this world with a heavenly purpose!

- Do we understand our purpose in this world? **It is to mirror Jesus Christ!**

**"The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one... so that the world may know that you sent me & loved them even as you have loved me."** Unity is our greatest witness!

In a world where we strive to distinguish ourselves from others, Jesus prayed that we would unite together & be a distinguished people bearing His name!

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