

“The High Priestly Prayer”

Read John 17:1-3 and 14-21

¹After Jesus spoke these things; he lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You. ²“Even as You gave Him authority over all people, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

³“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

¹⁴“I have given them Your Word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the Truth. Your Word is Truth. ¹⁸As You sent Me into the world, I also send them into the world. ¹⁹For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified in the Truth. ²⁰I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word. ²¹That they all may be one; even as You are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

Study Questions

1. Pastor described a watershed moment in the Christian worldwide missions movement when Dr. Ralph Winters shared the need to strategize by people groups rather than by country. Is his approach in agreement with God’s view of the world? Read Matthew 28:18-19; and 24:30.

Matthew 28:18-19

“All authority in heaven and earth has been given unto me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

Matthew 24:30

“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the families of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds, with power and great glory.”

2. The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus is evidence of Jesus’ role as our eternal High Priest. Why should we pay close attention to the things He asks for?

3. What 3 ideas did He have in mind when He defined eternal life? What did these things mean?

4. What separates us from those who are 'worldly'?

5. Read Genesis 11:1-9.

Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth used to speak the same language... And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which men had built. And he said, "Behold, they are one people, and have the same language, and this is what they have begun to do. Now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them. Come, let Us confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another." So the Lord scattered them from there over the whole earth, and they stopped building the city. Therefore, its name was called Babel.

Why did God separate people into people-groups at Babel? When did He reverse it for followers of Jesus? Read Acts 2:1-8

Acts 2:1-8

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, the disciples were all together in one place, in one accord. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. Now there were Jews in Jerusalem who had come from every nation under heaven. And when this happened, they were bewildered because each was hearing them speak in his language, saying, "Are not these Galileans? How is it that we each hear them speaking in our own language?"

6. Tell the main point of His prayer, and the battle plan behind it, to 'win the world'. What does God know about unity? As our church functions in unity to accomplish our assignment of winning people, who do you see as our people-groups? What ideas do you have to reach out? Think outside the box!