

The Disciples In the World (John 17:17-21)

Scripture Text:

13. But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.
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.
15. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.
16. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.
17. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.
18. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.
19. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth.
20. "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word;
21. that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (John 17:13-21 NASB)

Outline:

- I. Jesus Prays for the Disciples' Joy to Be Made Full. (v.13)
- II. Jesus Prays for the Disciples While In the World (vv.14-16)
- III. Jesus Prays for the Disciples' Sanctification (vv.17-19)
- IV. Jesus Prays for the Believers' Unity (vv.20-21)

Worksheet:

- I. Jesus Prays for the Disciples' Joy to Be Made Full. (v.13)
 - a. But now I come to You; (v.13a)
 - i. What is the significance of Jesus saying, "But now I come to You;" in this verse (relate to v12)? *[discussion]* _____

 - ii. Jesus, up until now, provided everything that the disciples needed. Since He would soon be physically leaving them and returning to the Father, the disciples would need to rely on God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to receive what they needed, in the name of Jesus.

1. And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19 NASB)
 2. Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. "So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. (Matthew 6:31-34 NASB)
- iii. List some things that the disciples would need that would be supplied?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

b. and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. (v.13b)

i. According to Jesus, how will His joy be "made full" in the disciples?
[discussion] _____

ii. What concept is tied to the work "speak" in this verse? *[discussion]*

II. Jesus Prays for the Disciples While In the World (vv.14-16)

a. 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. (v.14)

i. Jesus delineates a series of occurrences that have resulted from His earthly ministry in this verse. What are they?

1. Jesus has given the disciples the _____ of God.
2. As a result, the world has _____ the disciples.
3. The disciples have received the _____ of God and manifest that they are not of this _____.
4. Jesus, the Word of God in the flesh, has also manifest that He, nor His Kingdom are of this _____.

ii. Jesus, as He had in the past, explained that He was not of this world. Does this imply somehow that He was not Human and thus not an a member of the inhabitation of earth? _____

1. Then He said again to them, "I go away, and you will seek Me, and will die in your sin; where I am going, you cannot come." So the Jews were saying, "Surely He will not kill Himself, will He, since He says, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" And He was saying to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this

world, I am not of this world. Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.” (John 8:21-24 NASB)

2. Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?” Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate *said to Him, “What is truth?” And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and *said to them, “I find no guilt in Him. (John 18:33-38 NASB)
 3. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. (John 15:19 NASB)
 4. By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. (1 John 4:17 NASB)
 5. For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Corinthians 5:1 NASB)
- b. I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. (v.15)
- i. Conventional, human wisdom would suggest that when a person comes to faith in Christ and is saved, that it would be better, maybe even a bit more prudent, to take that believer “out of the world”, rather than leave them in a sin-cursed world, only to continue being subjected to all of its pain, suffering, grief, frustration, temptation, guilt, shame, ungodliness and a host of other unpleasant things experienced in this world by believers. But Jesus prayer was quite different. Did Jesus need to make a clarification to God the Father regarding His true intentions for the prayer He was praying or was this for the benefit of the disciples?

 - ii. According to this verse, what is more important for a believer than being taken out of the world? *[discussion]* _____

1. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. (1 John 5:4 NASB)
 2. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:5 NASB)
 3. These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33 NASB)
 4. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 NASB)
- c. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. (v.16)
- i. Jesus, in His prayer, continues to drive home the reality that the _____ are not of the _____, nor is _____ of the _____.
 - ii. Jesus says that the disciples are not of the world, “even as I am not of the world.” Not only are the disciples and Jesus not of the world, but they are not of the world in the **same way** and for the **same reason**. This is important to note. *[discussion]* _____

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1. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15 NASB)
 2. While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” (John 9:5 NASB)
 3. Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15 NASB)

4. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. (1 John 2:16 NASB)
 5. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; (Matthew 5:14 NASB)
- iii. What do these verses suggest about the similarities of Christ, the disciples and believers in general, as it relates to them being “in the world”, but not “of the world”? *[discussion]* _____
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III. Jesus Prays for the Disciples’ Sanctification (vv.17-19)

a. Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. (v.17)

- i. What does the word, “sanctify” mean in this verse? _____
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ii. Outline of Biblical Usage:

1. to render or acknowledge, or to be venerable or hallow
 2. to separate from profane things and dedicate to God
 - (1 consecrate things to God
 - (2 dedicate people to God
 3. to purify
 - (1 to cleanse externally
 - (2 to purify by expiation: free from the guilt of sin
 - (3 to purify internally by renewing of the soul
- iii. This setting apart from profane things and dedication to God has in this verse a very specific methodology behind it.

Sanctification → In the truth → The Word of God

b. As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. (v.18)

- i. This verse points out another similarity between Jesus and His disciples and to a large part, believers throughout church history. What is this unique similarity the disciples and believers share with Jesus? _____
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ii. Once again this verse supports this idea, because Jesus says, “as You sent Me...I have sent them...” Jesus was _____ by God the Father and the disciples were _____ by Jesus into the world to be lights in the midst of a world of darkness.

1. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (John 3:17 NASB)
2. Now after this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. And He was saying to them, “The harvest is

plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.

(Luke 10:1-3 NASB)

3. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20 NASB)

4. How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

(Romans 10:14-15 NASB)

c. For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. (v.19)

i. Jesus here points out the logical order in which this sanctification is and was to occur. Jesus points out that He has _____ Himself in truth and the disciples in turn have been _____ in truth, and this truth is God's word.

ii. The process of sanctification is not automatic, but instead it is an act of will and thus it is a choice that must be made. Even Jesus said, "...I sanctify Myself," and it was expected that the disciples "themselves also **may** be sanctified in truth." Believers today must also make a deliberate choice as an act of will to sanctify and consecrate themselves and this can only be done by and in the _____. God's word is _____.

IV. Jesus Prays for the Believers' Unity (vv.20-21)

a. "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; (v.20)

i. Jesus not only prays for Himself and His twelve disciples, He also prays for "those who believe in [Him] through their word;..."

ii. Jesus here, shows His ability to not only look into the hearts of people, but also shows his ability to look down the corridors of time and see that believers today would also need His prayer of unity.

b. that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. (v.21)

Father and the Son are One (Unity) → Believers are One (Unity)

Believers are In Christ / The Father → The world may believe that Jesus is Lord