

Those for Whom He Prays

John 17:1-11

The Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 28, 2017

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Broadlands

The Son prays to the Father and asks the Father to glorify the Son. The Father will glorify the Son when the Father enacts His will through the Son. The will of the Father is that the Son be betrayed, be killed, and on the third day rise again. When the Son does these things, He will demonstrate His obedience and perfection to the Father. When the Son demonstrates His perfection and obedience to the Father, He will proclaim to the entire world that the Father is someone who is to be honored. When the Son does this, the Son glorifies the Father. It is the Father's glory that the Son dies on behalf of sinful people. It brings glory to the Son and to the Father.

When the Son rises from the dead He has authority over all flesh. The Son has authority over all flesh because He has done what all flesh desires, but is unable to do: rise from the dead. If all flesh wants resurrection from the dead for itself, the Son is the only place from which such resurrection will come. Therefore the Son has authority over all flesh.

The Son uses His authority over all flesh to give them eternal life. The Father gave people to the Son and with the authority that the Son has over all flesh the Son gives eternal life to those whom the Father gives to the Son.

Eternal life is acquaintance with the Father and the Son. Eternal life is not merely the knowledge that God exists. Even the demons have such knowledge and they tremble. Eternal life is acquaintance with the Father and the Son. There is a knowledge of something's existence and then there is the knowledge of acquaintance. The knowledge of acquaintance is knowledge of the person's will and goals. Such a knowledge of the Father and of the Son is eternal life.

The Son gives such people eternal life by completing the work that the Father gave Him to do. As we have seen the work that the Father gave the Son to do was dying by crucifixion on behalf of sinful humanity. This death will bring glory to the Father because it will show that the Father is worthy of obedience unto death, even death by crucifixion.

And so the Son asks for glory. He asks for the glory that He had with the Father from the foundation from before the world existed.

When the Son asks for such glory, the Son is demonstrating that He was with the Father before the world existed. The Son is demonstrating that He is not a part of the creation rather the Father sent Him into the creation. The Son is pointing out that before the world was the Father and the Son had glory together. The Son is asking the Father to restore that glory to Him.

If the Son is going to glorify the Father by dying by crucifixion, then the only way the Father can answer the request of the Son to receive back the glory He had from before the world existed is if the Father raises Him from the dead.

The Son is asking the Father for His crucifixion. The Son is asking for His resurrection. In both cases the Son is asking the Father to glorify the Son.

Now then who are the people whom the Father has given to the Son? Whoever they are they are the people to whom the Son will give eternal life using His authority over all flesh.

They are the people to whom the Son manifested the Name of the Father.

I think the Lord's Prayer deadens us to the fact that at the time of our Lord calling God "Father" was rare. In fact it was so rare that I would venture to say that it made people uncomfortable when the

Son called the Father "Father." It would have further made some people uncomfortable when the Son taught those whom the Father had given Him to pray to the Father using the words, "Our Father." But when one prays the Lord's Prayer and addresses God as Father, one is confessing that one has knowledge of the Father. Only the people who are acquainted with the Father know His name and use it to pray. Jesus grants you this acquaintance with the Father by manifesting the name of the Father to you. With that name you may pray.

Such people who pray calling God Father belong to the Father. As a son belongs to his father so the Son belongs to the Father. As a son calls his God Father so the Son has given you the name of God that you may call Him Father also. These are the ones who are acquainted with God. These are the ones whom the Father has given to the Son and the Son gives them eternal life.

Such people keep the word of the Father. The word of the Father is the message of the Father. The message of the Father is His Son. The most important, profound message that the Father could have sent into the world was His Son. The people whom the Father has given to the Son are the people who have kept the Word of the Father. In other words they have kept the Son. In keeping the Son the Son has made them sons and like all sons, they call God Father. Like all sons, they are acquainted with the Father and the Son. The Father gives them to the Son and the Son gives them eternal life and when this is done the Father and the Son are glorified.

Such acquaintance is made when the Son gives the ones whom the Father gives to Him His words.

There is the word and there are the words. The Word is the entirety of the message about God. That word is the Word that became flesh and we beheld His glory. He is the only begotten Son of the Father. That Son of God receives words from the Father. The words that the Son receives from the Father forms a message about the Father. Such a message reveals the Father and the Son. When the Father and the Son are revealed in this fashion the people whom the Father has given to the Son become acquainted with the Father. The Son receives such words from the Father and passes them on to the ones whom the Father gives to the Son.

Whenever anyone receives these words he becomes personally acquainted with the Father and the Son and comes to believe that the Father has sent the Son. Such a person will confess that the Father has sent the Son.

It is on behalf of such people that the Son prays to the Father.

The Son realizes that He is going to the Father. He will die, be raised, and ascend into heaven. The Son also realizes that in spite of the fact that the Son is going to the Father and leaving the world that the ones who believe that the Father sent the Son are still in the world. The Son realizes that there are many forces of evil in the world which will oppose anyone who confesses that the Father sent the Son. That is why the Son prays to the Father on behalf of the ones whom the Father has given to the Son. He prays that the Father may keep such people in His name.

The name that the Son has manifested to them is the name of the Father. Because the Son has manifested to them the name of the Father, they address the Father as sons and call Him "Father." Only family addresses the Father in this way. The children of the Father have the name of the Father as it is almost everywhere. That is why the Son asks the Father to keep the ones whom the Father has given to the Son in the name of the Father. When they are kept in the name of the Father, they are kept in the family of the Father. They have a place in the Father's house and call Him Father when they pray. Such

people are acquainted with the Father and the Son. They keep the word of the Father and the Son gives them eternal life.

The Son prays not simply that they may remain in the name of the Father, but also that they may be one. The Son wants the ones whom the Father has given to him, who remain in the name of the Father, who received the word and words of the Father to be one.

He wants them to be of one mind and of one will. He wants them to be of the mind and will of the Father. He wants them to be united with one another as family because they are all sons of the same heavenly Father. He unites them bodily to His Son when His Son offers His flesh to eat for the life of the world. That is why it is called Holy Communion. There is Communion not only with God, but also with one another as the sons of the Father.

Such people are one in their love for each other and for their neighbor. Such people are one in their love for God and their seeking His will. Such people are one in a common destination in everlasting life. Such people are one in that they are in the Son and the Son is in them and the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son.

That is the prayer of the Son to the Father and the Father will answer the prayers of His Son because they are the prayers of His Son.

In the Name of Jesus. Amen.