



First United Methodist Church of Hanford

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.*



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“What do we ask in our prayers?” John 17: 1-11

Jesus prays, speaks to God... We do, more or less often, too. What do we ask in our prayers? Who are we praying for?

If we are sincere in answering these questions, we must say that we generally pray for ourselves, for a situation that concerns us, we also pray for the people we know, for our personal circle, for whom we love and surely, on some occasions, we pray for something that touched us, that we heard or saw in the news.

Jesus, just before he is arrested, prays to the Father, speaks to Him. He prays for himself. It reminds him that the crucial moment of his life, that life in obedience to God, is coming, fulfilling the mission he had entrusted to him. It says, "I have glorified you on earth by doing the work you entrusted me to do."

Jesus has already fulfilled, and now it is the Father's turn. And he says it this way: "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began." Jesus prays to the Father by saying, "I have done all that you commanded me to do, I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. . Now it's your turn, now you get into action, because I would not be able to anymore." Jesus is just minutes away from living the most vulnerable moment of his life on earth. At one point they are just going to get him to where he is, they are going to arrest him, prosecute him, torture, hang on the cross, and there, alone, he is going to die... as a criminal...

What is surprising is that, at this difficult time in his life, he also prays for his own, prays for his disciples. He remembers and cares about his own beyond his own suffering, coming out of his own pain, because he knows that 'those who God gave him will need all the Father's help as well. He knows that they will need his strength, they will need perseverance. Jesus, despite his anguish, had the ability to come out of himself and think of his disciples.

And how good it is to have that ability to get out of one's belly button, to get out of oneself, and to think about other people's problems and afflictions!

What is interesting, also, is how this attitude allows us, by looking back at our situation, to come out of self-pity because we realize that we are not alone, and how blessed we are. We live the blessing of having received God's grace, faith. To know Jesus and recognize Him as our Lord and Savior and live a life in that faith.

Maybe right now you are overwhelmed by the things that you are going through, this pandemic or your personal issues. Maybe you are feeling like you are the most unhappy person, with the biggest problems in the world, and do not end up understanding what I want to say to you with these words that I share with you today.

You may think that everything was easier for Jesus, because he is the son of God, but it was not. Jesus like every person of flesh and blood, was afraid, distressed, angry. He also had moments of questioning as you have them. But the important thing to emphasize today is that despite the moment he was living, he remembered those who also needed his prayers, and that allowed him not to feel so alone.

I invite you to an exercise: to look around and discover the needs of so many people in our community that are having a very bad time, who suffer hunger, injustice, loneliness. When you have done that, take a moment and pray for them. You will realize that your problems are not the only or the worst, and that thinking about other people and their situations will allow you to discover how much God blesses you, because you can bring your worries and anxieties to him, and that relieves you and gives you strength to move forward despite our worries.

Orar por otras personas, interceder ante Dios para que ponga su mano sobre otras realidades es un acto concreto de amor, es desprenderse de uno mismo, salir de nuestra autocompasión para pensar en lo que otras personas necesitan. Es acercarnos a Jesús, seguir su ejemplo, que oró por los suyos, minutos de ser arrestado, torturado y morir solo en la cruz. Amén.

Praying for others, interceding before God to put your hand on other realities is a concrete act of love, it is to part with yourself, to leave our self-pity to think about what other people need. It is to approach Jesus, to follow his example, who prayed for his others, minutes of being arrested, tortured and dying alone on the cross. Amen.

*Pastor Pablo*

John 17:1-11(NIV)

*After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:*

*“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.<sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.<sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.<sup>4</sup> I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do.<sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.<sup>6</sup> “I have revealed you<sup>[a]</sup> to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word.<sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you.<sup>8</sup> For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.<sup>9</sup> I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours.<sup>10</sup> All I*

*have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. <sup>11</sup> I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of <sup>[b]</sup> your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.*