

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

John 17:6-19

This morning's Gospel is a continuation of the idea of abiding in Jesus's love and keeping His commandment. This is actually a deeper insight into Jesus's prayer life and being His friend.

In the past we have had stories of Jesus going off to a deserted place to pray and be with God. We have never been privileged to the content of His prayers and the conversations with God. This morning we are given the privilege of the content of some of His prayers and conversations with God. John is truly a friend of Jesus and God. He has been brought into the inner prayer life of Jesus in order to hear this and record it. So when we read this or listen to it we also become friends of Jesus and

God! Remember that John was Our Lord's beloved disciple. He entrusted the care of His mother to John from the cross.

The content of Jesus's prayer is amazing and revealing. Jesus is praying for the well-being of His friends and now former disciples and apostles.

Jesus is actually praying for them. Since we are friends of Jesus upon hearing His prayer, He must also pray for us too. Jesus is praying for someone other than Himself. This is a great example for us also. That we should pray for others when talking to God. Start off with thanksgiving move on, to praying for others and then ourselves. Jesus is praying that their joy may be complete within them. This has to be the joy of Christ that we talked about last week. A never ending happiness that is firmly rooted in faith.

Jesus alludes to the fact that the disciples and apostles have been privileged to know and understand the relationship between Jesus and God. That Jesus shared everything in His relationship with God with them. That speaks to the trust Jesus had in His friends. Everything was

transparent. This speaks volumes about how he conducted His ministry and His relationship with His friends. Jesus prays to God, "Protect them in Your name, that You have given me, so that they may be one as We are One." Jesus has shared God's name and word with them and the world hates them for that. We could venture a guess that Jesus also shared more with them than just God's name and word.

The final part of the prayer reveals that God's word is the truth. The word that Jesus revealed to the disciples and apostles and us is the truth. Remember when Pilate asked Jesus what is the truth before His crucifixion? There is a trickle down concept here. Just as God sent Jesus into the world to reveal God's word of truth, Jesus sends the disciples and apostles out into the world to spread God's word of truth. You and I are the end result of this trickle down of the word of God's truth. Not only is it God's word of truth but it is the truth. The important thing is that God's word is the truth as it was expressed through Jesus's life amongst us.

As friends of Jesus and God we too are expected to share God's word of truth. We are strongly encouraged to spread God's word of truth which is the good news of Jesus Christ. John has a warning for us at the beginning of his Gospel. He says that there will be some we encounter who do not like the truth. So we are fore warned. We are to draw strength from our faith which supports our Christ-like joy. Remember that if Jesus prayed to God for His disciples and apostles He will do the same for you and I. We are much more than friends. Christ's resurrection has made us Sons and Daughters of the Most-High God. How much more will Jesus pray for family like you and I? We just need to abide in His love and keep His commandment to love one another. That is a very large work order. Since God's love has no boundaries. This is a nice way of saying to love always and without condition. This does not mean anything goes. Tough love is still love. May God give you the strength to just love and be loved. God Bless you all and have a prayerful week, Pastor D.