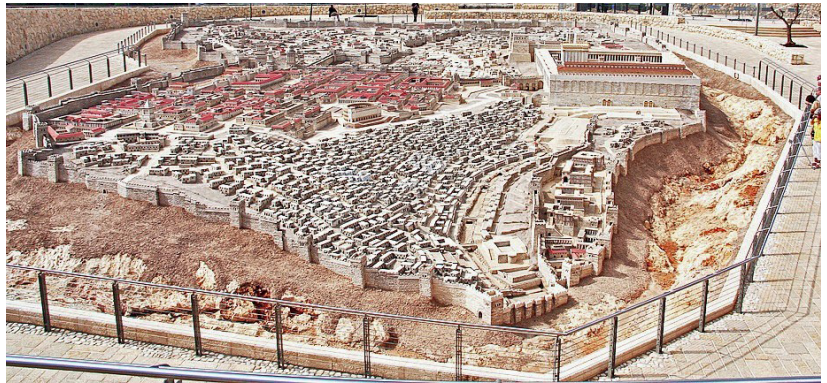


## Week 12: Jesus' High Priestly Prayer (17:1-26 Passion Translation)

1. **Review:** We've been on a four-hour journey with Jesus and His disciples, but it has taken four chapters in John's gospel to get there!

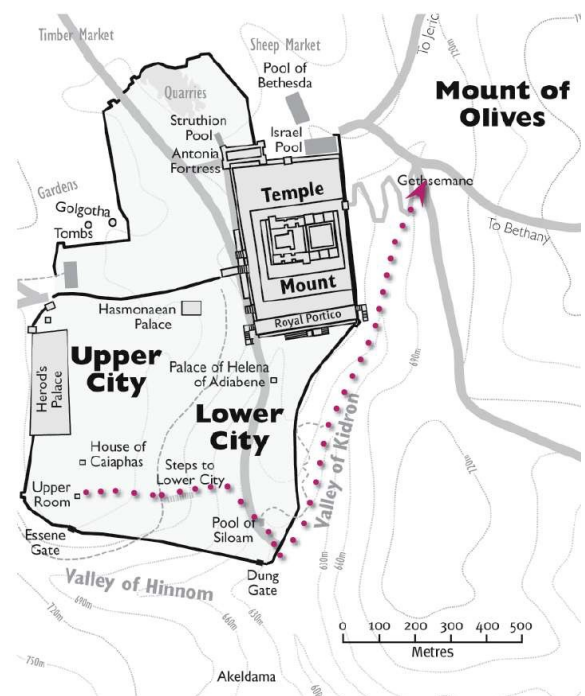
### • Where we've been

- Jesus sets up a Passover dinner party for Him and His disciples.
- He, Himself, disrupts the event by washing feet of the disciples.
- Dinner is served and His betrayer is revealed.
- Jesus and the disciples leave the upper room and make their way through the city to the Garden.
- On the way, Jesus tells them that He is the only way to the Father and about the person of the Holy Spirit, and his role in their lives.



This is a model of the city of Jerusalem in Jesus' day. Construction was undertaken in the 1960s by Hans Kroch, owner of the Holyland Hotel, in memory of his son Jacob, who was killed in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Originally in the grounds of the hotel, it was transported in 1000 pieces to its present site, 5km away, in 2006. Daily tours are administered by The Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

- There is no indication from the text that the scene has changed. They are making their way to the Dung Gate, ready to cross through the Kidron Valley, up towards the Mount of Olives, into the garden called Gethsemane, which means "olive press," where Jesus would kneel down and pray to His Father.
  - <sup>32</sup> They went to **the olive grove called Gethsemane**, and Jesus said, "Sit here while I go and pray." <sup>33</sup> He took Peter, James, and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed. <sup>34</sup> He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." (Mark 14:32-34 NLT-SE)
- They arrive at the Dung, exit the city, and as they follow the trail through the Kidron Valley, Jesus begins to have a "conversation" with the Father. Scholars call it the "High Priestly Prayer," but it sounds much more like a private prayer that Jesus decides to let the disciples eaves drop on. This is the epitome of a "teaching moment!"



2. **Glory:** What is the Glory of God?

**“When God gives His glory, He gives Himself. He cannot parcel Himself out in pieces - no man receives a portion, but all.** The one who receives His love also gets His mercy, His holiness, and His strength. The one who receives His mercy also gets His love and all else that is the fullness of God...Did you not know that Jesus Christ is glorified in His saints - now? Meaning that He acknowledges He abides in us in all His divine fullness. We do not have but a slice of His fullness - we are complete in Him. We have in us all He is! When He comes to abide, He comes in all His glory, might, majesty, holiness, grace, and love. We have received the glory of a full and complete Christ. A Lord in all His glorious attributes.” *The Glory of God - What Is It? Do You Possess It?* by David Wilkerson.

- “You don’t give yourself in pieces...” The song **Pieces**, by Amanda Cooke and Steffany Gretzinger (Bethel Music)

Verse 1:

Unreserved, unrestrained, Your love is wild, Your love is wild for me  
It isn't shy, it's unashamed, Your love is proud, to be seen with me

Chorus:

You don't give Your heart in pieces  
You don't hide Yourself to tease us

Verse 2:

Uncontrolled, uncontained, Your love is a fire, burning bright for me  
It's not just a spark, it's not just a flame  
Your love is a light, that all the world will see, all the world will see

Bridge:

Your love's not fractured, it's not a troubled mind  
It isn't anxious, it's not the restless kind  
Your love's not passive, it's never disengaged  
It's always present, it hangs on every word we say  
Love keeps its promises, it keep its word  
It honors what's sacred, 'cause its vows are good  
Your love's not broken, it's not insecure  
Your love's not selfish, Your love is pure

- **Defining Glory...**

“The term “glory” is not easy to define. **God’s glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections, and together these manifold perfections signify a reality of infinite greatness and worth.** The term “glory of God” in the Bible generally refers to the visible splendor or moral beauty of God’s manifold perfections. It is an attempt to put into words what cannot be contained in words what God is like in His infinite, unveiled magnificence and excellence.” *The Glory of God: God’s Chief End*, by Jack Sawyer

**“Defining the glory of God is impossible, I say, because it is more like the word beauty than the word basketball.** So if somebody says they have never heard of a basketball, they don’t know what a basketball is and they say: Define a basketball. That would not be hard for you to do. You would use your hands and you would say: Well, it is like a round thing made out of leather or rubber and about 10 or nine inches in diameter and you blow it up. You inflate it so it is pretty hard. And then you can bounce it like this and you can throw it to people and you can run while you are bouncing it. And then there is this hoop at the end. It used to be a basket. And you try to throw the ball through the hoop and that is why it is called a basketball. And they would have a really good idea. They would be able to spot one, tell it from a soccer ball or a football.

You can’t do that with the word beauty. There are some words in our vocabulary which we can communicate with not because we can say them, but **because we see** them. We can point. And if we point at enough things and see enough things together and say: That’s it, that’s it, that’s it. We might be able to have a common sense of beauty. But you try to put the word beauty into words, it would be very, very difficult.” *What Is God’s Glory*, by John Piper, July 22, 2014.

• **God's Glory Revealed in Scripture...**

- **Moses** saw His glory (Ex. 33)

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses said, "If you don't personally go with us, don't make us leave this place. <sup>16</sup> How will anyone know that you look favorably on me—on me and on your people—if you don't go with us? For your presence among us sets your people and me apart from all other people on the earth." <sup>17</sup> The LORD replied to Moses, "I will indeed do what you have asked, for I look favorably on you, and I know you by name." <sup>18</sup> Moses responded, **"Then show me your glorious presence."** <sup>19</sup> The LORD replied, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will call out my name, Yahweh, before you. For I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose. <sup>20</sup> But you may not look directly at my face, for no one may see me and live." <sup>21</sup> The LORD continued, "Look, stand near me on this rock. <sup>22</sup> As my glorious presence passes by, I will hide you in the crevice of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will remove my hand and let you see me from behind. But my face will not be seen." (Ex 33:15–23 NLT-SE)

- **Isaiah** saw His glory (Is. 6)

<sup>1</sup> It was in the year King Uzziah died that I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. <sup>2</sup> Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup> They were calling out to each other, **"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"** <sup>4</sup> Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD of Heaven's Armies." (Is 6:1–5 NLT-SE)

- ✓ Wouldn't you would have expected the creatures to say, "...the whole earth is filled with your **holiness!**"
- ✓ He is holy, but **what fills the earth is His glory!**
- ✓ For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an **awareness of the glory** of the LORD. (Hab 2:14 NLT-SE)
- ✓ <sup>3</sup> The cherubim were standing at the south end of the Temple when the man went in, and the cloud of glory filled the inner courtyard. <sup>4</sup> Then the glory of the LORD rose up from above the cherubim and went over to the door of the Temple. **The Temple was filled with this cloud of glory**, and the courtyard glowed brightly with the glory of the LORD. (Ezek 10:3–4 NLT-SE)

- Jesus' **disciples** saw His glory (John 17)

3. **Context:** Understanding John 17: "Jesus' High Priestly Prayer"

• Diagrammatic: Concentric Circles

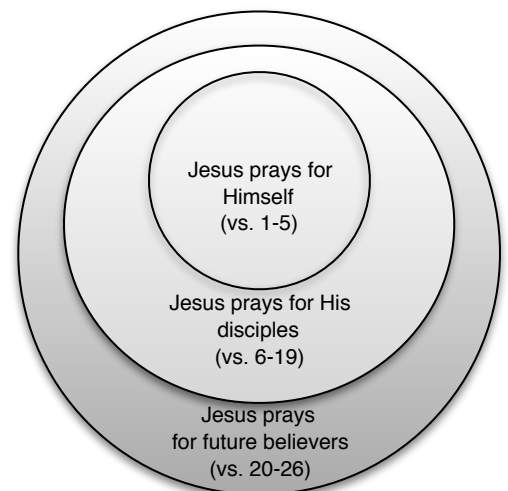
- Vs. 1-5...Jesus prays for **Himself**
- Vs. 6-19...Jesus prays for His immediate **disciples**
- Vs. 20-26...Jesus prays for all **who would believe** because of their message and ministry

• Four Words: Allistair Begg

- Vs 1-5...**Glory** (Notice the partnership between the Father and Son)
- Vs. 6-19...**Preservation** (Not that they would be removed, but protected from the evil one)
- Vs. 17-18...**Sanctification** (Conforming the believer to the image of Christ)
- Vs. 20-26...**Unity** ("That they may be one...")

• Relationship: Jesus reveals His relationship with the Father to His disciples

- Jesus **informs** His disciples how to pray...
- Jesus now **demonstrates** to His disciples how to pray...He has a conversation with His Father, while they watch! (with 11 volunteers)



4. **Jesus' Prayer/Conversation with the Father:** John 17:1-26

Jesus' "high priestly prayer" is only about 650 words. It takes only 3 minutes and 30 seconds to read it aloud.  
But it will take all eternity for us to fully understand it! ~ Justin Taylor

<sup>1</sup> This is what Jesus prayed as He looked up into heaven, "Father, the time has come. Unveil the glorious splendor of Your Son, so that I will magnify Your glory! <sup>2</sup> You have already given Me authority over all people, so that I may give the gift of eternal life to all those whom You have given to Me. <sup>3</sup> Eternal life means to know and experience You as the only true God, and to know and experience Jesus Christ, as the Son whom You have sent. <sup>4</sup> I have shown the world Your glory by faithfully doing everything You've told Me to do. <sup>5</sup> So, My Father, restore Me back to the glory which we shared together when We were face to face before the universe was created."

<sup>6</sup> "Father, I have manifested who You really are, and I have revealed You to the men and women whom You gave to Me. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have fastened Your Word firmly to their hearts. <sup>7</sup> And now at last they know that everything I have is a gift from You, <sup>8</sup> And the very words You gave to Me to speak I have passed on to them. They have received Your words and carry them in their hearts. They are convinced that I have come from Your presence, And they have fully believed that You sent Me to represent You. <sup>9</sup> So with deep love, I pray for My disciples. I'm not asking on behalf of the unbelieving world, but for those who belong to You, those You have given Me. <sup>10</sup> For all who belong to Me now belong to You. And all who belong to You now belong to Me as well, and My glory is revealed through their surrendered lives.

<sup>11</sup> "Holy Father, I am about to leave this world to return and be with You, but My disciples will remain here, so I ask that, by the power of Your name— protect each one You have given Me and watch over them so that they will be united as one, even as We are one. <sup>12</sup> While I was with these You have given Me, I have kept them safe by the power of Your name. Not one of them is lost, except the one who was destined to be lost so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup> "But now I am returning to You, so Father, I pray that they will experience and enter into My joyous delight in You so that it is fulfilled in them and overflows. <sup>14</sup> I have placed Your Word within them, and that is why the unbelieving world hates them, for their allegiance is no longer to this world because I am not of this world. <sup>15</sup> I am not asking that You remove them from the world, but I ask that You guard their hearts from evil, <sup>16</sup> for they no longer belong to this world any more than I do.

<sup>17</sup> "Your Word is truth! So make them holy by the truth. <sup>18</sup> I have commissioned them to represent Me, Just as You commissioned Me to represent You. <sup>19</sup> And now I dedicate Myself to them as a holy sacrifice, so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by Your truth."

<sup>20</sup> "And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in Me through their message. <sup>21</sup> I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as You and I, Father, are joined together as one; I pray for them to become one with Us so that the world will recognize that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> For the very glory You have given to Me I have given them, so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that We enjoy. <sup>23</sup> You live fully in Me and now I live fully in them, So that they will experience perfect unity and the world will be convinced that You have sent Me; for they will see that You love each one of them with the same passionate love that You have for Me.

<sup>24</sup> "Father, I ask that You allow everyone You have given to Me to reign at our side, for I want them to be where I am! Then they will see My full glory— The very splendor You have placed upon Me, because You have loved Me even before the beginning of time.

<sup>25</sup> "You are My righteous Father, but the unbelieving world has never known You in the perfect way that I know You! And all those who believe in Me also know that You have sent Me! <sup>26</sup> I have given them the revelation of who You are and I will continue to make You even more real to them, so that they may experience the same endless love that You have for Me; for Your love will now live in them, even as I live in them!"