

# Jesus On Intercession

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John 17.1-26

Setting the scene: On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread Jesus secured a room to celebrate with His disciples just prior to His arrest. Over the course of the evening Jesus prepares them for His departure. He washes their feet and tells them they are to love each other. He tells them that the end has come, and they will see Him no longer. This is good news, though, because the Holy Spirit will now come to them.

Verses 1-8: Jesus connects with the Father

" The Gospel of John gives us a deep and powerful look at the relationship between the Father and the Son. They love each other completely, totally, with no reservation and no corruption. Jesus describes this as being "one with the Father." Jesus assumes that in this prayer. They love each other with nothing coming between that love. This entire prayer flows from that love.

Jesus celebrates His relationship with the Father as he accepts his task and its greater purpose.

" Jesus begins His prayer by affirming his love and faithfulness to the Father. He mentions three things: authority to give eternal life, revelation of God's true character, and that he is giving back to God what God gave to him." Then Jesus turns to pray for his disciples.

Why does prayer work? Why does God answer it? Is it because we have the right words or pray with enough passion? No. Prayer works because it flows from our loving relationship with the Father.

Verses 9-19: Jesus prays for His disciples.

" Jesus prayer turns to intercession. He prays for four things:

1. Protection
2. Keep them close to each other
3. May their joy be full
4. Sanctify them

Verses 20-26: Jesus prays for all believers.

There is one prayer request here, to live in unity or within a love relationship with God and each other. (1 Jn. 2.9-10; 3.17-18; 4.20; James 2.15)

Jesus loved, in that sense some pretty unlovable people:

Sexually immoral people (Lk 7.36-50)

People of despised religions (Jn. 4.4-42)

People of despised nationalities (Matt. 8.5-13)

Traitors to the state (Mk. 2.14-17)

Other criminals (Lk. 23.39-43)