

TABLE 3

The Upper Room

John 17:1-5

John 17 is the High Priestly Prayer. Jesus takes us into the Holy of Holies. God talks to God in this chapter, and we get to eavesdrop on this most important conversation.

Jesus prayed for Himself. Many people say that they can more easily pray for others than they can pray for themselves.

How often do you pray for yourself? Is it hard for you to pray for yourself?

What did Jesus say to His Father? What did He pray for? These are words we want to closely examine. By doing so, we can learn a great deal about God's heart.

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

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. 5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Jesus prays He will glorify God. In very simple terms glorifying God is a way to reveal, praise or honor Him. Jesus revealed the Father.

We glorify God through our obedience. How does the idea of glorifying God through your obedience help you in your current season?

Give theme: 17 times (2 and 3) "Everything about Jesus' life is rooted in a heart to give." This statement challenges me in positive ways. In what ways is it challenging you?

God gave Jesus authority and people.

The tension we feel around the doctrine of election is around God's sovereignty and man's free will. Jesus praying about this in His prayer leads us to consider that Jesus knew election would be hard for us.

The scripture will confront how our understanding is limited. When this happens we must decide what to trust. Our feelings? What feels good or makes sense or are we going to trust the heart motive of God? Remember we are on a faith journey.

What do you do with a truth that you run into in the Bible that doesn't sit well with you, you're not sure you understand, and you're not even sure you like it?

God's goodness and sovereignty is what stabilizes me. What stabilizes you?

Adam and Eve wrestled with the temptation to know more than God had revealed. Satan fed into this temptation. Satan does the same with us. How does knowing this empower you to handle your temptations?

We (Christians) are a gift to Jesus. This takes us to the Church. The Church is the Father's gift to Jesus. Hebrews 10:2-19 Read this together.

What to do when we don't want to go to church? How do we spur each other on and encourage one another to not give up the Church?

"We never want to be someone in the body of Christ who makes it hard for another person to be glad to be there." Mary Beth

Eternal life is going to be spent with Jesus and His gift. When we stay away from Christian gatherings it's like we are trying to return Jesus' gift from His Father.

Have you ever thought of not going to church like this before?

What shifts in us if we think about ourselves preferring to be anywhere except church as a way of returning Jesus' gift?

What can you do to help build up the Gift of God that is the Church?

Please share a bright spot from your week.