

# SERMON TRANSCRIPT

DATE

March 12, 2017

SPEAKER

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SERIES

Fully Alive

PART

44

TITLE

Jesus' Passionate Appeal

SCRIPTURE

John 17:1-26



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Amen. Praise God. He is a great God. Amen? I love singing with you. I love seeing you sing. My soul is encouraged when I see you worship our great God together. If you have your Bible, hope you do, John chapter 17. Continuing our study in this magnificent book called the Gospel of John will be in Chapter 17. If you are new to Christianity or you are unfamiliar with Bible study, we're grateful that you're here. Maybe you're not a believer today and you've come, you're on a journey. We all are in some sense, but you haven't come to a point of faith in Christ, we're so grateful you're here. We want to give you a Bible. If you don't have one, there'll be one under the chair. We're on page 903, so page 903 in that Bible under the chair. Take that and we'll be reading the entire chapter.

Huge task this morning. Huge task this morning. The complexities of the morning already have us somewhat distracted, as you've seen the snow wash away the pollen. What? Quite interesting, isn't it? With all these things, we're going to attempt to preach. I'm going to attempt to preach this entire chapter. This is a task because volumes, book had been written on this chapter. I've got about four hours with you this afternoon. Just kidding. That's a joke! About 35 minutes to plow through this book in hopes that this book would plow through us, right? It's so amazing because it is, I would say, the greatest prayer that's ever been prayed. This is what we're going to get to listen in on, in a sense of [inaudible 00:02:21]. Imagine in our day and age with coffee shops popping up everywhere in Raleigh, the new format of these coffee shops are the tables are extremely close to each other.

You sit down trying to have a conversation, and you pick up something from the other conversation. You're trying to stay focused here, but you're really interested in what's going on over here. You kind of nod a little bit and mmm, right? That mmm is actually for this conversation, not your conversation. This is what's going to happen. We're going to listen in, in a sense, of a conversation. Not at a coffee shop. Between the Son of God and his father. This is what's recorded for us this morning. The Triune God, the Son speak to the Father. John has recorded this prayer for us. Listen, when we get to verse 20, I'm going to pause. I may have a lump in my throat. Verse 20 is going to tell us is this prayer that he's praying for his disciples, he's praying for us. He's praying for us. The Son of God.

This is what we're going to encounter this morning. I'm already crying. I haven't even read the text yet. Here's what I want to do. I'm going to ask you to stand for the reading of the Word. We don't do this often, but this particular prayer, all God's Word is amazing. Just, let's stand and let's listen. Let's lean in and listen to this prayer. "When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come. Glorify your son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, in Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I glorify you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

“I have manifested your name to people whom you gave me out of the world, yours they were, and you gave them to me. They kept your word now. They know that everything that you have given me is from you, for I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I’m not praying for the world, but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours and yours are mine and I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I’m coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name which you have given me. I have guarded them and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

“Now I’m coming to you, and these things I speak in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your Word and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I’m not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world, and for their sake, I consecrate myself that they also may be sanctified in truth. I do not ask for these only, these disciples only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us so that the world may believe that you’ve sent me.

“Oh the glory, the glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one. I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one so that the world may know that you sent me and love them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Oh, righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you and these know that you have sent me. I made it known to them by your name, and I will continue to make it known that the love with which you have loved me may be in them and I in them.” You can be seated.

Father, as we read this and we walk through it, every ounce in me wants to sit down. What could I add to that? Yet, God, just a moment, these few moments, would you help us to see, behold, understand all that this text says? We ask this in Jesus’ name, amen. We know there’s so much here. There’s so much here. Here’s something I want us to maybe get an idea of. It’s March Madness, one of my favorite times of the year. It’s something about this time of the year that when someone is pulling for you, it inspires you. When someone’s pulling for you, it moves you and it motivates you. Imagine this particular team down the road in a place called Chapel Hill, in this gym. Notice the difference it makes when someone is inside watching and cheering and pulling for the team, and they win the regular season, championship, go undefeated at home this year in the dean dome.

Imagine the difference if it would be no one in the gym while they were playing. The inspiration, the motivation would be massively limited, I believe. Unfortunately, last night things did not turn out that well, except for those over in Durham. May God help them use that win to encourage them. Listen, listen. Think about this for a second this morning. Listen. Imagine the feeling when someone comes by and they're not just pulling for you, but they say these words to you. "Hey, I've been praying for you." Man, that encourages you, right? Our daughter recently had her appendix taken out, an emergency surgery, and many of you prayed. We're so grateful for that as you came and you said that, it lifted my wife and I up. It truly empowered us and fueled our belief in God. I'm praying for you. These words, "I'm praying for you," it does something, doesn't it, to know that you're not just being pulled forward, but you're being prayed for.

Listen, the Son of God, this morning, is walking past every one of you. I'm praying for you. The Son of God. The Lord of heaven and earth is praying for you. Take comfort this morning, beloved. Take comfort this morning. Hebrews 7 says, "He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them." Did you know that, that the Son of God always lives to make intercession? Romans chapter 8 says "Christ Jesus, the one who died - more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. The second person of the Trinity. Jesus, the Son of God, is praying for us. I want to show you four things that he prays in this text this morning. I want to show you four things that he prays.

Listen, there is much more in this text, but I don't believe it's less. I'm going to try to give you four huge hooks to hang your belief and faith in this Great Intercessor for us, King Jesus himself. These are the four words that I'm going to try to unpack in a very short amount of time. The first one is glory. The second one is protection. The third one is holiness. The fourth one is unity. These are four words that we're going to unpack: glory, protection, holiness, and unity. Let's go after the first the truth and this first thing that the text shows us that Jesus is praying for is this. Jesus prays for he and the Father's glory to be known. Jesus prays for he and the Father's glory to be known. Notice what happens in verse one. In verse one, Jesus has spoken some words in 16, we looked at last week. He lifts his eyes to heaven and he says this.

He says, "Father, the hour has come." We've seen some of this language in our Book of John walking through, but it hasn't said this. We've seen the hour has not yet come multiple times where things were happening. We were thinking, "Is this it?" No, that wasn't it, but this is it. The hour has come. No hour in the history of the world like this hour in the history. The word for hour is not the exact time. It's a word that means this season, this time of day. It's not necessarily it's 7 p.m. or so forth. It's the hour. It's the time. It's the fullness of time, in a sense, where he was incarnated. Then now it's coming to where he will be hung on a cross and take God's wrath for us. The plan of redemption that God planned before the foundation of time is about to come to fruition. This is an amazing moment we find ourselves at in the text.

He says, "The hour has come." Look what he says. He says, "Glorify your son, that the Son may glorify you." This idea of glorify, it's a fascinating word where we get doxology from. It means to praise or to extol or to magnify or to celebrate. Psalm 19 says it like this, "The heavens declare the glory of God." The heavens are speaking in a sense of the glory of God, the majesty of him. The Word also carries with it the idea of this. To cause to dignify in worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged. This is what's happening. What's getting ready to be manifested, what's getting ready to be acknowledged in this moment of glorious glory is the cross. The cross is coming. The hour has arrived. This redemption. Listen, this is what he's going to do. He says it in verse two that, "Glorify your son, that the Son may be glorified since you have given him authority over all flesh to give eternal life to all whom you have given him."

This is the pinnacle. This is the moment, the cross. It's this unbelievable moment of hour where redemption would take place that for those who trust and believe would have eternal life. The glory of the cross. There's a song that was written by Sovereign Grace Ministries and they're a worship team. It's amazing, almost theological writing that they put to music and song. I want to just read you some of its lyrics. Listen to what it says. It's titled the Glory of the Cross. "What wisdom once devised a plan where all our sin and pride was placed upon the perfect Lamb who suffered, bled, and died? The wisdom of a sovereign God whose greatness will be shown when those who crucified your Son rejoice around your throne. What righteousness was there revealed that sets the guilty free, that justifies ungodly men and calls the filthy clean?"

"A righteousness that proved to all your justice has been met. A holy wrath is satisfied through one atoning death. What mercy now has been proclaimed for those who would believe. A love incomprehensible, our minds could not concede. A mercy that forgives my sin that makes me like your Son, and now I'm loved forevermore because of what you've done. Oh, the glory of the cross, that you would send your son for us. I'd gladly count my life as loss that I might come to know the glory of the cross." Listen. This is what the Father and the Son, before the foundation of the world, Peter tells us. He was ordained to be hung on the cross for our sins. This idea of glorify we looked at, but this idea of the word glory itself, it carries with it this idea of weight. The glory that's found in the cross and what is to come in the kingdom of God far outweighs everything that weighs us down.

One author and writer says it like this, "Our troubles no longer have the same hold on us. They're outweighed by what we know has happened and is in store for us. Our sins don't have the same hold on us because they're outweighed by the glory of what Christ did on the cross. Our troubles are outweighed by the glory that is to come and our sins are outweighed by the glory of what has done." Listen, and fascinating that he starts chapter 17 with glory. He ends it with glory. Verse 24, 25, and 26. It's amazing what he says. He says, "Father," as he ends this prayer, "they also whom you have given me may be with me where I am to see my glory that you have given me." This glory that preexisted before the foundation of the world between the Father and the Son in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit's this amazing concept. Now he's saying listen. He's praying. He's actually praying that we'll see this one day.

This is what's coming, believer. If you're a believer in Christ, this is what's coming. Revelation teaches that the actual face of Christ is so glorious that there'll be no need for the sun, the S-U-N, in the heavens because the brightness and the glory will magnify everything so that we could see everything by that. That's what's coming for us. It's like a 40 watt light bulb, wanting our glory, compared to the sun. Why? Put that light bulb down. Don't live for your glory. Live. Listen, let's live to glorify this God. This Father-Son spirit. Don't take up your mirror and follow him. Take up the cross and follow him. This is why we exist, as a church, to glorify God. Listen, he prays, "Father, our glory [show 00:22:32], make this glorious moment, as hard as it's going to be, show and make your glory know."

Let's be a people who live, to glorify, magnify, acknowledge in a sense what God has done for us in the cross and the resurrection. Notice secondly, Jesus prays. He prays for our protection from the evil one. He prays for our protection from the evil one. Verses 11 through 16. He says, "I'm no longer in this world. I'm coming up to you, but Holy Father," he says. He says, "Holy Father, listen, keep them. Keep them in your name. I kept them. I guarded them," verse 12 says. Let's be rest assured. Let me deal with this very quickly, theologically when it says "except the one who was the son of destruction," that's Judas. Did he lose one? No, he didn't lose one. That one he never had. We believe theologically you cannot lose something that you don't have and that you had nothing to do with even earning.

Two thoughts here. One, I don't believe Judas was a believer and then he became an unbeliever. I believe he was never a believer at all. You can be in church and not be a believer. Know that. There's many principles we could draw from that. Also know that the reality of the fact that I don't believe you can lose your salvation. I'll just deal with that really quick, that once he has you, there's an assurance that comes that no one or no thing could snatch us out of the Father's hands. Romans 8, there's nothing, wars, anything that could separate us from the love of God. There's a blessed assurance, that Fanny Crosby wrote of some 8,000 hymns, became blinded at six weeks old, lived to 95 and penned these. There was an assurance in her blindness, physically, that she knew spiritually and penned that song. Blessed assurance. Jesus is mine. Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine.

Listen. Verse 14, there's a hatred from the world. There's a hatred in the world, so we need protection. Then I love verse 15. Listen, let's camp. Let's camp on verse 15 really quick because it's really unique in how this is laid out. He says, because our protection maybe doesn't look like what we think it should or how we would even write it. This protection that Jesus prays for is unique because he says in verse 15, "I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one." Think about that for a second. This protection, he doesn't ask to take out the enemy nor does he ask to take us away from the enemy, but while you're in enemy territory he says, "God, would you keep them from the evil one?"

It's not, "Watch this, watch." It's not, "Build a fort and hide out, Christian." It's not, "Build a fort and have God remove all evil so we can come out of the fort." No, it's a keeping and a guarding in the midst, in the presence of evil. Listen real quick. Listen to me. The proximity of our walking with God directly impacts our protection of God. Let me break this down. It's not you and I are protected against the enemy's presence. No, Psalm 23 says, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." No, no. There's a sweetness of protection. Not physically, but spiritually. There's a sweetness of God guarding your heart and your mind in Christ. There's a protection from fear and anxiety and the troubled heart. Not a away from the enemy, but in the presence of the enemy. He makes provisions, does he not?

This isn't a physical war. Ephesians 6 says very specifically that it's not flesh and blood, it's not this physical war that we're in. It's a spiritual war against the principalities of darkness that we are in. Yet for us, we find so many trivial things to find protection in. In money and status and relationships and Facebook friends and the number of followers or likes. All these different things. Listen, all these different things that we find protection in, listen, they may be good, but they're bad gods. Look, they don't protect you nor do they pray for you, neither. There's one who does both and it's Jesus the Christ. Listen. If he made a way to be protected against our worst enemy, fear and anxiety, parenting, finances, lost job, cancer, those things are bad.

I'm not trying to just dumb those down. Those are realities that we all struggle with. The biggest struggle and the biggest enemy that we need to be protected from is God's wrath. He's accomplished that in crushing his Son instead of us on a cross, buried him, and he came back from the dead to validate that he is the Way, Truth, and the Life to the Father. If we would not protect from that, will he not also protect in our daily walk? It's like a minefield in a war, when you're walking through. If you're not close to God in his Word and by his spirit following God, and as he leads you, he leads you beside still waters and green pastures. You're going through this minefield. If you get distant from God and he's way up where you can't see or hear in a sense, it's much easier to step on the mines of anxiety and fear and troubled heart.

When you're walking close with the Savior in his Word, in prayer, filled with the Spirit, you're still going to die physically, be encouraged. There's a sweetness of being spiritually protected. If you're not a believer this morning, listen. If you're not a believer this morning, we want to plead with you to trust Christ this morning and place your faith in Christ. We know because we've been there as believers. Even as believers, we still struggle with fear and anxiety and troubled heart and limited peace at times. It's why we're trying to press deeper into the Gospel, deeper into God. We've pressed and he's pressed into us, ultimately, to forgive us of our sins and give us freedom to live as he has intended. If you've never experienced that this morning, we want to invite you at the end of our time today to trust Christ, to talk with us and place your faith in him.



Let's rest this morning in the protection of our Great God. The third thing that Jesus prays for is he prays for our holiness, for the sake of the mission. Notice what verse 17 says. Verse 17 says very specifically, "Sanctify them in the truth." This word sanctify literally means to be set apart. Watch this. It doesn't mean to be set above. It means to be set apart. As we strive to be holy, we should be going low and not high. We should take this and hold it over others that aren't like us. If anything, it should break our hearts. I just got back from a city. Monday and Tuesday, did a quick trip to Portland, Oregon where it was seven students and they were helping lead a mission effort for that week. It's the most non-religious city in North America. I didn't walk around puffed up. I walked around broken.

He's set you apart for the sake of the mission. He doesn't set you above, and so you lay this out as if you're better than someone. No, this is what he's doing. He's molding us. Now, let's do a little bit more work. 11 o'clock service, we can handle this. Let's do it. Let's look at these two words we don't talk about a ton. We don't use them a ton. They're long, but here we go. The words are justification and sanctification. Let's understand this is what's going on. Justification is our position with God. We, by God, awaken in us from our sin. We're made right with him. We're in a right standing with him. Not based on anything that we've done, based on everything that he's accomplished. It's amazing. He calls us out of a spiritual death, in a sense, and awakens us.

Then sanctification, this ongoing, lifelong process is our practice of walking with God. We're being made holy by him. This is what's taking place. It's much like a goldsmith when they used to refine the liquid gold. They would heat the gold up and then all the dross and the impurities would come up to the top. Then they would take this instrument and they would rake those impurities to the side to get the gold as pure as possible. The way the goldsmith knew that the gold was ready was when he could see a perfect reflection of himself in the gold liquid. This is what God's doing. He's removing dross. He's removing these impurities because he wants to see himself in us. This is the idea of being sanctified. This is what was taking place.

It's fascinating to see in II Corinthians 5:18 he says very specifically that we're being, in one sense, transformed ... II Corinthians 3, that we're being transformed from one degree of glory to another degree of glory. Watch this. If a had a huge thermometer up here, when it's 19 degrees outside and it goes to 25, you don't really know that. You're still freezing. If it goes from 19 to 48, man, you're going to notice that. This is the way our sanctification is. It's one degree at a time. We don't jump from 19 to 48. It goes from 19 to 20 to 21 to 22, stays there for a little bit. Maybe a year. He's just working. Then goes, so don't be discouraged if you don't feel as holy as you think you should be. God's working it. As a matter of fact, all the way to the point when you take your last breath on that day, he's going to be sanctifying you even on that day. It's from one degree to another degree.



Now, watch this. It's amazing because God's kind. He gives us, in the text, the greatest resource for you and I to be holy. World religions will teach multiple things. Go to a holy city. No, he doesn't tell us to do that. He tells us to get in the Holy Book. He says sanctify them, he prays, your Word is truth. There's a holy book called the Bible that you maybe have in front of you that is the greatest resource with the Spirit of God working through the Word of God to transform us. Daily time in the Word is significant for you growth in holiness. Listen, it's much like physical food does for your body physically, the Word of God does for your spiritual body. Physical food, you go a day without eating, somebody around you is going to know it. You're going to be a little grumpy. That sound in the stomach groaning a little bit. You get irritable.

You eat three meals a day with some snacks in between and a bowl of cereal before you go to bed. Some of you do. Imagine. Listen, one verse in four seconds in the morning is not going to cultivate holiness the way God desires it. It's like this. I think what's happened is sometimes things come in that's crowded so much that we're so busy and so many things are in us that we've got to make room. My wife and I, for some reason I have no idea why we're doing this, but we're trying this pretty radical eating thing for 30 days called Whole 30. I'd like to punch the person that invented that thing because it's about to kill me. It's like no sugar, what, no carbs, no dairy. Listen, where I'm from in Virginia, we believe biscuits and whole milk are from God's hand. Right? You eat those things with thanksgiving.

What's happening is we're trying to get some things out of our body and put some really healthy things in our body so we could live a healthier way. There's some things that you may need to get out of your heart and your mind, maybe too much time on social media, maybe reading every thought that comes in the philosophical world of where things are. Maybe just take some time to get out of that and then put some stuff in that's going to help you live, not healthier, but holier. I would suggest to you it's the Word of God, reading it. If you haven't jumped on the Bible reading plan to be able to jump in with us on that and read ... Maybe it's just the New Testament part of the Bible reading plan where you try to memorize, not just read it, but read it that morning and then maybe at each meal or each snack throughout the day you call to mind something you read that morning. It's like you begin to start meditating and memorizing the Scripture throughout a day's work.

It may not show up this year, but the degree of glory, God's going to do it. He does it. It's amazing how he does it. Notice what he does it for. He does it for the mission, in this sense. Holy lives sent on mission validate the mission of a Holy God. This is what he's doing. He's making his appeal. God's making his appeal to the world through us. I wouldn't do it that way. I don't get it sometimes. The brokenness and the sin that I fight, I'm like, "God, why do you want to make your appeal through any of us? Especially me?" This is the way he does it. He takes broken people and puts them on a path to cultivate holiness and care and generosity and gentleness and hospitality. He begins to change your heart.

He says, "I want to display who I am through the people I've redeemed." Make sure you know this. It's because we've been made right that we want to live holy. We're not trying to live holy in order to be made right. There's a resource there for you called the Spirit of God that is doing these things because he's redeemed you. You don't get cleaned up and come to God. You come to God and then he begins the cleaning up process. He does it. He'll change. He's changed stuff in my life I thought he'd never change. As an arrogant, arrogant athlete who played two sports in college, when I would walk into a gym in Raleigh, North Carolina, I would begin to pick out the different individuals that I want to hit certain baskets on and then drop some profanity on them. That's the way I thought. I never thought he could cleanse my tongue. I so enjoyed, I was so arrogant using profanity in a gym to make myself look better. God changed that. Changed it.

He could change you as well. Listen, let's live holy while we take hope to the world. Let's live holy while we take hope to the world. The last one. Really quick. Oh my. Here we go. Jesus prays for our unity to show the world God's reality. Jesus prays for our unity three or four times. They may be one, they may be perfectly one so that the world may believe that you've sent me. Did you know that one of our greatest apologetics, one of our great ways of defense of this Gospel is true is actually not when we go outside these walls and we go into the city and we try to share the Gospel and do evangelism and do these certain things, one of the great, great apologetic that we have that God's given is that we love each other.

See, some teams love each other when they look and see you have a certain shirt on the outside. For about two hours, they're really unified. Maybe even then on the outcome of the game, they're not, but inwardly. Listen. Thank God we don't have to wear the same clothes in this place to be unified. No, it's a transformation of the heart and it's a love for each other that God does this amazing work. There's a harmony that comes when we are unified. Colossians 3 says to bear with one another. This is the way a church family functions. Some things I do I know probably irritate you. Somethings you do will probably irritate me. It's not sin. The beauty of the Gospel and the unity is that we bear with each other. We're able to bear up under these things. Then when we do sin against each other, we ask for forgiveness. This is unlike the world. The world holds onto it. Bitterness takes root and you keep something that someone's done against you for about four years.

For us as believers in Christ, we forgive. We extend because we've been forgiven. Because we've been forgiven, we extend forgiveness. My wife and I celebrate 20 years of marriage this year and it's been such and incredible, awesome journey with her. We've never once gone to bed where we hadn't forgiven each other. We made a commitment our first year of marriage saying, "Look, I know I'm going to irritate you probably a lot more than you're going to irritate me, and so I'm going to need a lot of forgiveness in this thing for it to work." We committed. We had to stay up late a few times to walk through some things, but we want forgiveness and mercy and grace to be lavished daily in our lives and in our marriage. So it is with our church family and our body, Christ. The world takes notice. Listen. They may stop listening to us, but they're always watching us. The way we love each other is an amazing testimony that Christ has prayed for us.

Have you thought about that? We live this week in such a way that at the end of the week, would the Father have answered any of the prayers that Jesus prayed for us even in this week? May it be so. Father, we love you. Thank you for this time together with the family of faith, God. It's one of the most joyous occasions of my week is to come and be with your people. God, I pray and ask for strength for this week that you would solidify these truths, God, and we would live for your glory, God. Make it known God that we would experience your protection in the midst of the evil one and his schemes and tactics, and that God, you would continue to cultivate holiness in us and that, God, you would unify us in a great way. We love you and we pray all these things in Christ's name. Amen.



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