

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 47)

**PRIORITY 3: PRAYER.** John 17 is the longest recorded prayer of our Lord. He did not seek to be alone when He prayed. Jesus prayed in front of His disciples because He wanted them to know that in His absence He would be praying for them. That means He is praying for us. Jesus' final prayer was a model for them and us. What can we learn in this prayer that will give impetus to our radical discipleship? [1] Jesus prayed that the Father would glorify Him. "Glorify Your Son" (17:1). Before the Father glorified Jesus, Jesus glorified the Father. Jesus' entire life on earth glorified the Father. Jesus would be glorified in the cross and His exaltation in Heaven. Jesus' only business was to glorify the Father. The supreme business of a disciple is to glorify Jesus as He glorified the Father (John 16:14). [2] Jesus prayed for His disciples. "I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours" (John 17:9). In Heaven Jesus is praying for us. "He always lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Intercession means intervention. Intervention is involvement. If Jesus thinks it is important to still be involved in the lives of the saints, so should we. We are never more like Jesus than we are interceding (intervening) for the saints. [3] Jesus prayed for those who would believe in Jesus through the Word (John 17:20). Jesus prayed for fruit. He was asking the Heavenly Father to honor the preaching of the Word through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was praying for all who would be saved. That includes us. There is a spiritual relationship between all saints, then and now. You can say, "Jesus prayed for me 2,000 years ago." That's radical. If we want to be radical disciples, we will make it a priority to pray for each other.