

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 48)

PRIORITY OF PRAYER (CONTINUED). Jesus prayed three things for future saints. [1] Unity. "I...pray...that they all may be one just as We are one" (John 17:20-21). Except for a period of time when the early church was in a state of revival in the first century, this prayer has largely gone unanswered. When the church returns to a state of revival, which is a condition of normalcy, this prayer is answered. In these last days we need to join Jesus in this prayer. Radical disciples will do this, and we will prevail. Radical disciples will be found ready when Jesus comes to rapture His church (Revelation 3:8, 10). Disciples who pray together stay together. It is sad that keeping "the unity of the Spirit" is considered radical. (Ephesians 3:3), but that shows how far we have come from the radical discipleship of the early church. [2] Jesus prayed "that they may behold My glory" (24). This will happen in Heaven, but Jesus wants His glory to be shown by living saints today. Let us pray for the glory of Christ to be revealed in the church, so others will want to know and love Him. [3] Jesus prayed that love would be manifested in His disciples. "...that the love with which You loved Me may be in them. And I in them" (26). We used to sing, "They will know we are Christians by our love." I haven't heard that song in many years. That is unfortunate. The only thing that will heal the division in the church is love. Be a radical disciple and pray for this. Love is truly a radical priority.

These priorities were the hall marks of Jesus' ministry. They are conduits of grace. The priorities Jesus taught His disciples last are the power for service. Radical disciples hold these priorities close.