

2025-03-23 – The Prayer That Changed Everything

Summary

This sermon focuses on John 17, examining Jesus' prayer before his crucifixion. Pastor Thomas emphasizes how Jesus, in His final moments before the cross, was primarily focused on praying for His disciples and all future believers. The sermon highlights how Jesus' primary motivation for going to the cross was His deep love for humanity and His desire for believers to be unified with Him and reflect His glory to the world.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your Word, we ask that You would open our hearts and minds to understand the depth of Your love for us. Help us to grasp how much Jesus cared for us, even in His final moments before the cross. Guide our discussion and help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verses

John 17:1

John 17:20-21

John 17:23

John 17:26

Questions

1. What does it mean to you personally to 'reflect God's glory'?
2. How does knowing that Jesus was thinking about you before His death impact your faith?
3. In what ways can we demonstrate that we've 'been with Jesus' in our daily lives?
4. What role does unity among believers play in showing the world God's love?
5. How does Jesus' prayer for protection and sanctification apply to our lives today?
6. What does it mean to be 'in Christ' and how does this affect our relationship with God?
7. How can we maintain joy in our faith, even during difficult times?
8. What practical steps can we take to better reflect God's love to others?

Life Application

This week, intentionally focus on demonstrating Christ's love to others in practical ways. Each morning, pray for God to fill you with His love and look for specific opportunities to show that love to someone else, whether through acts of service, words of encouragement, or simply being present for someone in need.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus' primary motivation for the cross was His love for humanity
- Our unity with Christ and each other helps others believe in Him
- There is power in the name of Jesus to protect and transform us
- We reflect God's glory when others can see Jesus in us
- True joy comes from understanding how much Jesus loves us

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for loving us so deeply that You thought of us even before Your death on the cross. Help us to live in that love and share it with others. May our lives reflect Your glory and draw others to You. Give us the strength and courage to live as Your witnesses in the world. In Your precious name we pray, Amen.