

Sermon Title: The Prayer of a Harvest Laborer, Part 2

Sermon Text: John 17:24-26

Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to imitate the precepts of the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus.

Sermon Proposition: There are 3 aspects of Jesus prayer that should give the Harvest Laborer confidence.

Introduction: The High Priest is still praying this prayer. Hebrews 10:19-25; 4:14-16; 7:24-28

“We were chosen before the world and called out of the world, to go back into the world, in order to reach the lost in the world.” – **Steve Lawson (Facebook)**

“Prayer is not an attempt to get God to argue with you or provide for your selfish desires, but that it is both an affirmation of His sovereignty, righteousness, and majesty and an exercise to conform your desires and purposes to His will and glory.” – **John MacArthur (Facebook)**

I. The harvest laborer’s confidence is their future presence with Christ. V.24

II. The harvest laborer’s confidence is the righteousness of the Father. V.25

III. The harvest laborer’s confidence is the equality of Sonship.

A. Relationship

B. Fellowship

C. Discipleship

I. The harvest laborer’s confidence is their future presence with Christ. V.24

The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus is a passionate plea by Jesus to the Father, on behalf of the believer, that all those the Father has given to Him, might be with Him in the eternal glory of Heaven. The glorification of the believer in heaven is the ultimate final completion of the plan of salvation.

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 6:39 "This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

Romans 8:29-30 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

True prayer is always consistent with God’s will and word. Jesus desire, wish, plea, for His disciples yet to be birthed is for them to be with Him, therefore, we should pray about wanting to be with Him. All believers are a gift from the Father to the Son, we are His Bride given by the Father to the Son.

John 12:26 "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him *My* Father will honor.

The full answer to this prayer will be in heaven, where we can see the full glory that is His (cf.5). Someday believers will not only see His glory, but we share in it.

Philippians 3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Until then we participate in it spiritually. (**Colossians 3:1-5**)

2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Based on this prayer there are 8 truths believers must pray and practice related to their true home.

1. Believers must understand where their true citizenship and home is. **(Philippians 3:20-21)**
2. Believers must be anticipating going home.
Hebrews 13:14 For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.
John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. **2** "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. **3** "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.
3. Believers must have their mind stationed in their true home. **(Colossians 3:1-5)**
1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I beg *you* as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,
Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.
Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
4. Believers must know this world is passing away. **(Matthew 6:10—21, 33)**
1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **16** For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. **17** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

"A worldly minded church or Christian is the result of disobedience." The inability to hear!
5. Believers long for their heavenly home.
Psalms 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.
Philippians 1:23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.
2 Corinthians 5:8 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
6. Believers seek the blessings of Heavenly presence. **(2 Timothy 4:6-8)**
7. Believers prayers should fill the Heavenly home.
 - a. Because God the Father is there. **(Matthew 6:9)**
 - b. Because fellow believers are there.
Luke 10:20 "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."
Hebrews 12:23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

- c. Because our names are recorded there. (**Philippians 4:3**)
Revelation 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
Revelation 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.
Revelation 17:8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.
 - d. Because our inheritance is there.
1 Peter 1:4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
 - e. Because our holiness is there.
 - f. Because our eternal reward is there. (**Matthew 6:19-21**)
Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
 - g. Because Jesus is there. (**Acts 7:55-56; Colossians 3:1; 1 Peter 3:22**)
8. Because the full glory of God is there.
- a. Behold the glory (**1 John 3:2; Philippians 3:9-11**)
 - b. Conform to the glory (**Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:49**)
 - c. Sing about the glory (**Revelation 5:12-13**)
 - d. Reflect the glory (**John 17:23, 26; 14:20, 23**)

II. The harvest laborer's confidence is the righteousness of the Father. V.25

Jesus addresses God as Righteous Father. The Old Testament teaches that God is righteous and just.

Psalms 116:5 Gracious *is* the LORD, and righteous; Yes, our God *is* merciful.

Psalms 119:137 TSADDE. Righteous *are* You, O LORD, And upright *are* Your judgments.

Jeremiah 12:1 Righteous *are* You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about *Your* judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? *Why* are those happy who deal so treacherously?

Although His betrayal, torture, and death were looming, Jesus affirmed the righteousness of God His Father and our Father. The confidence of the Harvest Laborer is based on an understanding and dependency of the righteousness of the Father. God the Father is righteous in everything He does or does not do. (**John 3:18, 36**)

Psalms 145:17 The LORD *is* righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works.

“God’s righteousness is to be understood as His impeccable holiness and conformity of His actions to that Holy nature, is common place in Jewish thought.” “God is righteous and his people are to be righteous in their behavior, therefore God’s righteousness attributed to God’s people refers to moral behavior conforming to God’s will.” This is the result of salvation and sanctification, not the means.

[*The IVP Dictionary of the New Testament: A One Volume Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*, Editor Reed G. Daniel, Intervarsity Press, p.955]

1. God is righteous in His judgments
Psalm 19:9 The fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.
Psalm 119:7 I will praise You with uprightness of heart, When I learn Your righteous judgments.
2. God is righteous in His deeds.
Psalm 103:6 The LORD executes righteousness And justice for all who are oppressed.
3. God is righteous in His precepts.
Psalm 119:62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, Because of Your righteous judgments.
4. God is righteous in His Word. (Jonah vs. Ninevah)
Psalm 119:123 My eyes fail *from seeking* Your salvation And Your righteous word.

III. The harvest laborer's confidence is the equality of Sonship.

Jesus came to make the Father known (**John 17:3**), personally, so that we may experience the love of the Father, the Son knows.

Ephesians 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

- A. An established relationship.
- B. An established fellowship
- C. An established discipleship

This prayer can be summed up by 7 key words:

- a. Preservation v.11
- b. Jubilation v.13
- c. Liberation v.15
- d. Sanctification v.17
- e. Unification v.21
- f. Association v.24a
- g. Glorification v.24b

[[John MacArthur New Testament Commentary John 12-21, p. 302](#)]

This summarizes the prayer of this chapter as well as the intended outworking of Jesus's obedience to the Father's will.