



The first evangelist of the Unification Church

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Jesus' final prayer as recorded in John

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Reading from John 17:3-5

³ And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

⁴ I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Good morning, everyone,

Today I'd like to talk to you about Jesus' final prayer which is recorded in John Chapter 17. That time the disciples, the Jewish leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees were asking a lot of questions to Jesus about the spiritual world. Jesus answered them that eternal life was knowing the true God, and Christ whom He has sent; knowing and believing in God and Christ.

Jesus was faced with the cross; he went through a great deal of suffering because it was very difficult for him to open a path for salvation in the midst of so much opposition. So Jesus prayed that God had given him the power over all flesh- it says in verse 2-

As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

When faced with the cross, Jesus prayed to God that the way could be opened up so that each and every one of the people that had been entrusted to him by God could be saved and could receive eternal life.

He verse 5, he prayed:

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

He offered this prayer in tears.

There have been times in my life when I had something to pray about, some issue that I needed God's help for. I would go to the Bible and read Jesus' final prayer; I would then realize that when I prayed about these things I needed to pray sincerely from the bottom of my heart with tears.

Every place that Jesus went, he witnessed to people, he evangelized people to glorify God and make his name holy. We see that every time Jesus prayed, he did not put himself at the centre; rather he prayed, "God, You have entrusted these people to me, so let me stay with them; let me remain with them until the end, until they can go the way of salvation and eternal life."

In verse 6, Jesus says:

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

This is what he did. He manifested God's name to everyone that he met, to everyone that would listen to him, because he had been given responsibility over all humanity by God, and he wanted so much to be able to open the way to salvation for them.

We can see in this Ch.17 of John what bright spirit Jesus had and that he was witnessing to people spiritually in the spiritual realm. In this prayer, Jesus says, "I have done the things that You asked me to do, so please don't let any single one of these people be taken away to Satan, but rather let them go the way of salvation."

In verse 9, he says:

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

This is an incredible earnest request to God that each and every single person might be able to receive salvation.

In verse 10:

And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them

These were the words that Jesus was speaking as he was about to go to the cross.

In verse 11:

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

I would pray that I could be one with God; I would pray for God to dwell within me so I could be one with Him. Now too I pray every day that True Father may dwell within me and I may be in him, so that we may have unity as one body. I also pray that Jesus may come and dwell within me and that I may dwell within him, so that we can establish the ideal of one body. When I pray to Jesus like this I am often reminded of his last prayer on earth.

In this prayer, Jesus is praying for the world; that even though he may be leaving the physical world that God would protect those who are still in the world. I also pray that Jesus may be within me, that our True Father may be within me so that we can establish that ideal world here.

Jesus prayed that the people whom he was leaving on the earth would be protected from evil and that they would be able to go together into the kingdom of heaven. The heart that Jesus expressed here is incredibly sincere and nourishing to them. Until his last breath Jesus was teaching people the name of God and asking God to open the way to salvation.

In the first ten volumes of Father's collected sermons and words, we see his incredible love for Jesus. I think that no one in the world loves Jesus more than Father. When he would talk about Jesus or pray about Jesus he would do so in tears, so much so that the jacket that he was wearing would become soaked in tears. Father loved Jesus so much

in that way! I saw firsthand how much Father loved him. He was certainly the person who loved Jesus more than anyone in the world.

People in established denomination say, "Do you in the Unification Church read the Bible? Do you believe in Jesus?" But I remember how much Father truly loved Jesus and I long for those days when I heard Father speak that way.

One day in 1953, Father said, "You know there is a lay leader of an established denomination having a revival over on that mountain. Let's go and join them!" Eight of us went- together with Father- to join that revival meeting. We took a train and got off at the Kimchun station which is near the mountain where this revival was being held. Eight of us -together with Father-went then: Mrs. Ok and Mrs. Kim came - both were with Father in North Korea- A Catholic priest was with us also; eight of us went to this revival meeting.

Mr. Na, the man who was having this revival- was actually spiritually open. The first evening that we were there, he got up and said, "There are some spiritual thieves who are here to rob you of your spirit." He said, "The Bible said that in the last days there would be the antichrist and they say he is there or he is here; don't go to these places. But today one of those people has come here to rob you of your spirit so we need to be very careful as we worship here today."

Actually seven of us went directly to the revival and Father was in his room; he was maintaining his position in his room. The young people staff of that revival put up some kind of a barrier and almost knocked us over but we were able to get out.

Father was in a lodging place nearby - so he was away and seven went there to the actual revival. When we got back, Father asked, "Did anything happen?" and we said to him, "Well, he said that there were some spiritual thieves and that we had to be careful," Father smiled and said, "Well I guess he heard me." We sang a song and Father prayed, "God, why is it that every place I go, there is this confusion and strife. I made You a promise, so I pledge to keep that promise and I pray that the victory that has begun here in this land can be extended throughout the world and throughout eternity."

As we were leaving that place, Father told us that we had been anointed as the Army of Heaven, and he said that just like the independence army that fought against the

Japanese colonialists risked their lives for the sake of the country, we needed to also be prepared to risk our lives for the sake of the country, for the sake of the world and for the sake of God's will.

I remember that day when Father clenched his fist as he spoke to us and said, "We are the army of God. We need to be prepared to put our lives on the line just as the independence fighters who were fighting for the independence of Korea against Japan put their lives on the line." He encouraged us and gave us strength in that way.

Father was crazy for witnessing. I remember that from the beginning till the end, everything in his life was about witnessing and about saving people's souls, saving their spirits. He thought that it was his responsibility to save the soul of every person he came in contact with.

When one or two persons would come to visit him, Father would speak to them through the night. It was not normal speaking; he would be intoxicated in the word of God as he spoke. I could see how he was so desperate to save those people that came to him. I could see that he was completely focused and completely crazy about witnessing.

In that revival meeting, the Rev Na who was speaking there, spoke a lot against Father, criticized Father a lot in front of all those people. He said, "There are people who call themselves the Lord, there are all kinds of heretics around here; and who knows they may be here tonight." And he actually spoke about Father and criticized him a great deal.

Later Father said, "Who is he? He is also a child of God and he also needs to return to God. It does not matter if he has thousands of people gathering to hear his speeches. He is a child of God and need to receive salvation too."

Father would often encourage us; he would encourage us by scolding us, that we needed to be more serious about saving people and giving them eternal life.

Many spiritual phenomena occurred in those days. One time a few dozen people came to our church, and we asked them, "What's happening? Why did you come here?" "Well we started out wanting to go to our church, but somehow we ended up here. We don't even know how that happened. We don't know how we came here." "That kind of spiritual phenomena would occur."

This was a time when we were able to mobilize the spirit world in order to witness. People were desperate to hear God's word and Mr. Eu Hyo Won the president of the

church at that time was amazed that people were so desperate. He would say, "Because Father is standing on the front line, because Father is fighting, the spirit world is also fighting. The spirit world cannot stay still in this circumstance."

Today we need to inherit this spirit and this heart, so that we may also be crazy for witnessing, and take responsibility for the souls of the people that we meet, in order to bring them all to God and realize his kingdom on earth.

Thank you very much.

Video: <https://youtu.be/-d8vV2fDvOk?t=1804>