

**Sermon Notes John 17:1-9, 20-26 Jesus' prayer** 16/5/2021

**Vv. 1-9.** Jesus prays to His Heavenly Father (17:1) showing his complete unity of purpose (2) and being (5). Jesus prays to encourage his disciples. Jesus announces that the 'time has come' for him to go to the cross (12:23). Jesus asks the Father to glorify him in his obedient act of dying on the cross. All that Jesus desires for his disciples will only occur after he has 'sanctified' himself - **'Jesus dedicates himself to a death which has cleansing power'** (Tasker)

**V. 20.** Jesus prays for his first disciples and for all those who believe in him **through their message** - 'given' by the Father (God's initiative),

**V. 21-23.** The unity of the believers is based on the unity of the Father and the Son and is meant to reflect the divine unity. The believers' unity is possible because Jesus has united them to God (21b). This unity is to be a **permanent state**. This is to be a present reality which points to its future consummation. The love which Jesus commanded them to show to one another (13:34-35) is a **divinely created** love (26) as is the unity which it creates. They are to live out this unity. The purpose of the believers' unity is to convince the world to believe in the incarnate Son who came to bring eternal life (21, 2), and to reveal the Father's love (3:16ff). **V. 24. 'Glory'** (10-11, 2 Cor. 4:3-6). **The unexpected way that Jesus reveals the glory of the Father (the nature and character of God) is in weakness, humility and death.** The glory of God is also revealed in the resurrection of Jesus (20:28) and in fullness at the return of Christ (Mk. 13:26). **V. 25-26.** God's righteousness refers to the deliverance that God brings and to the just way it is achieved. **The Son has made the Father known** in all his words and deeds. The brings the Father's love to his disciples by uniting them with himself (16:26-27; 3:16ff).

**Reflection/Response.** How do we show our unity in Christ to the wider world? How is God's glory, shown in Jesus, revealed in our lives? How do we celebrate the privilege of being drawn by Christ into the fellowship of God (V.21b)?