



**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #299**  
**Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:**  
**Jesus Offers His “High Priestly Prayers”**

**Jesus Prays For Unity With the Trinity, and Each Other**  
**JN 17.20-26**

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20 *“My prayer is not for them alone.*

*“I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.*

*22 “I have permanently given them the glory that you permanently gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be permanently brought to complete unity, so that the world will know that you sent me and have loved them just as you have loved me.*

*24 “Father, I want those you have permanently given me to be with me where I am, and to keep on seeing my glory, the glory you permanently gave me because you loved me before the creation of the world.*

*25 “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. 26 I have made you-- your name-- known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	A Vineyard On the Road to the Mount Olivet
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	Jesus Offers His High Priestly Prayers
Title	Jesus Prays for Unity With the Trinity, and Each Other

Today's reading brings us into the deepest revelation of the mind and heart of the Trinity in the history of creation. Jesus' final three petitions in his High Priestly Prayer are deceptively simple, yet infinitely profound. These are the most massive, important prayer requests ever offered on this earth. They reveal more of the heart and faith of Jesus than anything else recorded in the gospels. No wonder he spoke them to his Father in prayer. These are Trinity thoughts and desires--the very breath of heaven.

I will comment on today's reading as usual, but with the caveat that I know my words only begin to scratch the surface of their meaning. These are the most profound words ever spoken, and they require eternal worship, wonder, and contemplation in response.

Jesus made three requests here. The first, and most important one was for all believers in Jesus to experience the strongest possible bonds of unity with each other in the body of Christ, because we have been united with the Father, Son, and Spirit in the oneness of life in the Trinity.

The three Persons of the unity are eternally one in their love for each other. As each of us get to know the love of the Trinity and live in intimate fellowship with them, and they live in us through the Spirit, we are likewise bonded to every other Christian in the oneness and fellowship of God's loving presence.

Jesus said that when his disciples experience and express our unity with the Trinity in our relationships with each other, two things happen in the world: (1) they will know and believe that Jesus was sent by his Father as the Savior of the world, and (2) they will see and know how much we have been loved by God, by the way we love each other.

The second request was for every believer to spend eternity in the presence and fellowship of the Trinity, seeing and experiencing the glory of Jesus. This is the glory that Jesus shared with the Father and Spirit in his pre-existence before he created the world. To be enabled to gaze upon the full, eternal glory of God forever is the greatest gift of grace that our God could bestow upon us. Nothing in all creation can begin to compare with this. It is Jesus' blood bought gift to every believer.

The third request was for each of us to continually experience the Love that each member of the Trinity has for each other, and for us. Jesus had already commanded us to abide in his love. Here he prayed for it to be our constant experience in this life, and for eternity. God the Trinity IS love, and wants each of us to never stop growing in our experience and understanding of his love--forever.

Because Jesus offered these prayers each believer is guaranteed (1) full unity with the Father, Son, and Spirit that is an expression of their unity with each other, (2) the eternal vision of God's glory, which is eternally abundant life, and (3) the eternal experience of God's love, in every way that each Person of the Trinity loves each other.

This prayer established our eternal salvation. It sealed every other promise God ever made in these three requests. It is incredible that Jesus could pray a prayer of this scale, and have the faith to believe and receive these requests for every believer of all time.

This is your High Priest. This is how he prays for you. These are the desires of his heart. This is therefore your eternal destiny in him, and your confidence in your life on this earth.

#### APPLICATION:

Our unity with the Trinity, eternal vision of his glory, and experience of his love are guaranteed by Jesus' prayer--a done deal. He would shortly die to seal it all in his blood of the New Covenant.

One thing remains for us to do. We must maintain our unity with each other in the love and bonds of peace that the Spirit works in us. All of Jesus' ongoing work on earth to make disciples of all the nations depends on our unity with each other that is the product and expression of our unity with him. As he prayed: "May they be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Oh how often we fail to maintain the unity of the Spirit! We allow so many wounded and broken relationships in the body of Christ to separate and divide us. Church history is rife with conflict, rather than concord in Christ. We **MUST** become the answer to Jesus' prayer for our unity with each other.

Maintaining unity begins with every relationship of our personal lives.

Is there any wounded or broken relationship in your network of relationships? Go to them! Make peace. Restore the unity that Jesus prayed for, then died and rose again to form within us.

*How will you restore, or maintain unity in Christ's body today?*