

## 3. Interceding Love

### Introduction:

Just before Jesus is taken away to be killed, he takes some time to pray for himself, for his disciples and for the future church – which is us. **Intercession** is the process of asking God for something we deeply desire, knowing that we cannot do it for ourselves, and trusting that God alone can bring it about. Jesus interceded for us because he knew we needed divine intervention.

**Text: John 17:20-26**

*Jesus shows his love for us as he intercedes for us*

### 1. When does this intercession occur?

Jesus prayed for the future church just hours before he was to be executed, knowing what kind of brutality awaited him. Instead of just thinking about himself, which would have been understandable, he thought of us. This demonstrated his deep love and commitment to us.

### 2. Why does Jesus intercede on our behalf?

Jesus prayed for us, because he knew that we would need God's divine intervention to accomplish his purposes in us.

### 3. What does Jesus intercede for?

Jesus had very specific desires for us that he knew would not happen without God's divine intervention. So, he prayed and trusted that God would bring about his requests throughout the generations. His desires were:

- That we would be united to each other as believers, which would make our witness to God's glory even more effective (vs. 20-23).
- That he would continue to reveal the Father's love for us (vs. 25-26).
- That we would persevere until the end and enjoy his glory (vs. 24). Jesus knew that Christians would have many trials, and would need the encouragement to persevere. He prayed that God would enable us to continue to endure to the end, so that we would not miss out on his glory, when he returns for his church. Jesus longs for us to experience his glory, and to experience the fullness of his love towards us.

### 4. How will, what he intercedes for, be fulfilled?

Jesus knew that he was part of the answer to the prayer he was praying for. He knew, that in order for us to be rescued from God's wrath, and to be given eternal life in his presence, that the price for sin would need to be paid. He knew that he was going to be sacrificed, and he prayed for it anyway. His intercession cost him everything – which shows God's profound love towards us.



# NO GREATER LOVE

## Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it significant that Jesus prayed for us just hours before his own death, and what does this teach us about his love for us?
2. Why do you think our unity as believers matters to God, and in what way do you think our unity is a witness to his glory?
3. Why do you think we need God's help to persevere to the end?
4. ♥ Personal Reflection: under what circumstances have you been tempted to lose your faith in Christ? Looking back on that now, what role/impact do you think Jesus' prayer (in this passage) might have had on your heart/faith?
5. Why did Jesus' prayer for the future church cost him, and why is this the greatest act of love towards us?
6. What part of Jesus' prayer makes you feel loved by him. Explain.

