

“Holy Father”

John 17: 1-20

9/11/22

Discussion Questions

Prepare

When you think of the holiness of God, what comes to mind? What it comes to personal holiness what do you think of? Is holiness a high priority in people’s lives today? Why or why not?

Passage

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶ "I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹ I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹ I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled.

¹³ "I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. ¹⁴ I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. ¹⁵ My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message..."

1. What do you think about this inside look at the private life of God? What stands out to you? What does it tell us about God, His relationship with His Son, and Their relationship with us?

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2. Scripture talks a lot about holiness. Here are a few passages quoted in the message: *“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace.”* 2 Timothy 1:9 *“Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family.”* Hebrew 2:11 *“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.”* Ephesians 1:4

In light of these passages, how important is holiness to God? Why is it important to God?

3. What is holiness? Have you ever had an experience with the holiness of God? If so, share what it was like.
4. Have you ever had an experience with people who lived far from God who treated you very differently or they behaved very differently once they discovered you were a Christian? What happened?
5. When did you discover there was a God and you were not it?
6. What difference would it make in our lives if we internalized the wisdom of God as a holy wisdom?

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

7. How can we balance trusting in the wisdom of God while also using our God-given brains to cooperate with God’s work and will for our lives? Can our wisdom collide with the wisdom of God?
8. Share a time you felt overwhelmed by something and the holy wisdom of God gave you the peace that you needed.
9. Read Romans 7:13-25. Paul says a lot about the holiness of the Law and why it is hard for us to obey the Law. Does Paul’s experience resonate with you? Have had similar experiences? Think about all the troubles we could have avoided had we only honored God’s Law as holy!
10. Solzhenitsyn said what is wrong with both Communist Russia and the West is: *‘Men have forgotten God.’* What do you think about his diagnosis?
11. What was your father like? Was he anything like the Holy Father? What kind of family did you grow up in, did they celebrate your accomplishments and minimize your mistakes or did they ignore your accomplishments and hammer you for your mistakes?

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12. How has the holy Fatherhood of God shaped your life?
13. Respond to this common belief people have: “*I believe people ought to have the right to believe in God and worship Him however they chose.*” We can’t do to others, so why do we think we can treat God this way?
14. Share how knowing Jesus has brought peace, ease, confidence, freedom from having a critical spirit, and the power into your life.
15. Is there anything else you want to discuss?