

=LIFE OF CHRIST=

Lesson 8

Jesus' Summary of His Earthly Life

INTRODUCTION: Last week we discussed the one-sentence biography of Jesus: "...who went about doing good." Now He is at the end of His earthly life. He prays what is truly the Lord's prayer. We call the Lord's Prayer, "Our Father, which art in Heaven..." but that is not the Lord's prayer; it is a model prayer from which we are to pray. The Lord's prayer is found in John 17 and is the object of our lesson for this week. In this prayer Jesus sums up what He did during His earthly ministry. Let us notice this summary which was given to us just a few hours before His death. This is the prayer that was prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane when He sweat drops of perspiration that were like blood.

- I. THE THINGS FOR WHICH HE PRAYED. (These verses are all in John 17.)
  1. That He may be glorified. Verse 1.
  2. That His previous glory in eternity might be restored. Verse 5.
  3. For the safety of the believers of the world. Verse 11.
  4. For the safety of the believers from the evil one, that is, Satan. Verse 15.
  5. For the sanctification of believers. Verse 17. The word "sanctification" means "to be set apart." God wants us set apart for His service, and His prayer was for our sanctification.
  6. That His children might be one. Verse 21. No, He is not talking about those who are not His children. He is talking about the born-again ones, the true children of God.
  7. That His children would be with Him in Heaven, to behold and share His glory. Verse 24.
  
- II. HIS GIFTS TO HIS SON. Seven times Jesus spoke of His children as being gifts of the Father to Him. See John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 12 and 24. Jesus is God's gift to the world, John 3:16, and we are God's gift to Jesus. Yet there are gifts that He gives to us, and these are listed.
  1. Eternal life. Verse 2.
  2. The Father's name. Verse 6.
  3. The Father's words. Verses 8 and 14.
  4. His joy. Verse 13.
  5. His glory. Verse 22.
  
- III. THE SUMMARY OF HIS LIFE. Jesus tells the Father what He has done during His earthly ministry. Again, we look at John 17.
  1. He glorified the Father. Verse 4a. He had not come to glorify Himself; He came to be crucified and to glorify the Father Who had sent Him.
  2. He finished the work that the Father had given Him. Verse 4b. Ah, this is a vital point. No one has been successful in life unless he has finished the work that God gave him to do. (Teacher: Lead the pupils to find that work, to yield to do that work, and to finish it.)
  3. He had manifested God's name. Verse 6. The word "manifest" means "to uncover" or "to unveil." Jesus told the world about the Father.
  4. He had given the words of the Father to the world. Verse 8. Now here is a vital thing for each of us to do. We must spread the Word of God. Yes, we must do God's will and finish His work. Yes, we must manifest His name. Yes, we must glorify Him, but all of this is not enough. We must present His Word to a hungry and dying world. Notice also in verse 14, the same truth is given.
  5. He declared unto the world the Father's name. Verse 26. We, too, are to do this declaring, that of telling people of the name of the Lord.

CONCLUSION: Someone has well said, "Only one life; 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." Many people whose lives on earth are not over are full of remorse and many others are full of joy. How vital it is that we live while we are here so that by the time we leave, we will have completed what we were sent to do!