Message Reflections

April 14, 2019

The evening before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus concludes His farewell discourse with a prayer. This prayer features three parts:

- Jesus prays for Himself.
- Jesus prays for His disciples.
- Jesus prays for those who will believe based upon the disciples' testimony.

Read John 17:6-19.

Jesus prays for His disciples as they will face strong testing and opposition, both from the world, and from the evil one who has great influence on this world. The fact that Jesus prays the disciples would be protected from faltering in their faith, speaks to His belief in the power of prayer and the possibility of failure without it.

- What do you think is most challenging for you as a Christian living in today's culture?
- What change in your lifestyle do you need to make to distinguish your identity from that of the world?

Read 1 John 2:15-17.

- John describes love for the world as, "*the desires of the flesh, the desires of the eyes, and the pride of life*." Do you struggle with any of these specific temptations? Why do you think these are a struggle?
- What does (or what would) it look like to fight and avoid worldly temptations in your daily life?

Jesus has placed you where you are so you can live out your Christian faith and tell others about Him. Pray for wisdom and boldness as you live in the world, knowing that you are not alone. Jesus has given you the Holy Spirit to guide and to help you.

Eric