

Why Did Jesus Come – To Set Us Apart

11/30/25

When you watch the news, you've been seeing how some countries have treated the President of the United States. Japan gave the President golf gifts – a Shinzo Abe's putter, gold leaf ball and tree set, and other golf items. Japan also gave cherry blossom trees and fireworks to celebrate our 250th anniversary as a country. South Korea gave our President a golden crown, a gold medal of honor, and a brownie topped with gold. I didn't know you could eat gold. In 2017, Saudi Arabia gave the President two fur-lined robes – one white tiger and the other cheetah. He was also given swords, a dagger, and artwork. All these items were given to show praise and honor to the President. We have another Christmas to celebrate. This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. We light the candles, we sing the songs, we decorate, we do all the Christmas stuff every year as if it is only a routine that we are stuck in. Why do we do these things? Why do we celebrate Christmas as true followers of Jesus? The Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus when He was born in a manger. Why did they give gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to a baby? These gifts are given to human kings and leaders, not to a little baby born in a manger. Why do we celebrate Christmas?

Let's turn to John 17: 1-10 where we read this from John, **"17** When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth

that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. (ESV – www.biblegateway.com)

Jesus is with His disciples and He is getting ready to start His actual journey to the cross. So, John tells us that Jesus starts to pray for His disciples and John is part of this group. Jesus isn't just praying for the disciples with Him during that last earthly supper. Jesus is praying for all His disciples from then to when He makes His final return to earth to bring His bride, the Church, home to the New Heaven. So, Jesus states in verse one that the hour had come to be handed over to the enemy so He could carry our sin on that cross. That is why Jesus was born in that manger. To carry our sin and to allow the Holy Spirit to dwell inside His true followers. Jesus also obeyed the will of His Father so that the Son could be glorified and then Jesus would glorify the Father. The Easter event we celebrate every year partly was done to give Jesus and the Father glory. In verse 1, 4, and 5, we see the terms glory and glorify. In verse 5, Jesus asks His Father to glorify Him as both of Them had been before the world began. To me, this means that the plan of salvation was set in motion before the world began and now Jesus would finish that plan for salvation and take His seat next to His Father like it was before all of this was set in motion. Everything Jesus and His Father did was to bring glory to each other. I looked up the Greek terms used in these verses for "glory and glorify" depending on your translation. Both terms come from the same Greek term: "doxazo" which means give praise, honor, and glorify (Strong's Concordance). God and His Son gave each other praise and honor all the time. Even when Jesus came to walk this earth as a human, yet as the Son of God as well, Jesus and His Father gave glory to each other. Now, Jesus adds onto this statement in verse 10 that glory has come to Him through them. Jesus is saying that His disciples will bring glory to Him as well. We are to bring glory to Jesus. We are to give praise and honor to Jesus as we live on this earth. I think it's easy to give Jesus praise. We give testimonies sometimes or we tell others what Jesus has done in our lives, but are we good at giving Jesus "honor"? Jesus tells us this in John 5: 22 - 23, "And the Father leaves all judgment to his Son, so that everyone

will honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. But if you refuse to honor the Son, then you are certainly not honoring the Father who sent him. (NLT)” The Greek term of “honor” used here is “timao” which means to honor, show respect, give recognition (Strong’s Concordance). We are to give the Trinity praise and honor. We give praise, but about honor? Do we show respect to Jesus? How do we show respect to Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit? It’s in how we live that shows honor (respect) to them. Paul states this in Ephesians 4: 30, “And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption (NLT)” If we sin willingly against the Holy Spirit, we bring Him sorrow because we are showing Him disrespect. A sinful life does not bring honor to Jesus, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit. So, we can praise Jesus a lot during Christmas time, but do we honor Him. Do we respect Him by the way we live?

Jesus continues in John 17: 11-21, “¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.^[a] ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them^[b] in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself,^[c] that they also may be sanctified^[d] in truth. ²⁰ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. (ESV – www.biblegateway.com)

In verse 11, Jesus states in His prayer that they (disciples) may be one as We are one. We are to be one together through the Holy Spirit. Plus, in verse 21, Jesus

states, "that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me." How do we honor and show respect to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? We show honor by being one with the Trinity. Jesus prays that the Father will protect His disciples because they have to remain in the world. Jesus is leaving them, but the Spirit will be their helper and we talked about that last week. Jesus protected His disciples while He walked the earth. In verse 12, Jesus mentions the one disciples that was doomed to destruction and that was in line with God's plan for the cross event. Now, the Spirit will pick up with that protection – protecting us spiritually. This prayer of Jesus didn't contain the requests we make when we pray. This prayer was a petition of a spiritual nature for His disciples. He wanted His disciples to be one with Him. This is one reason why we give respect and honor to Jesus. Jesus has given us the ability through the Holy Spirit to be one with Him and the Father.

The way we show respect and honor to our Lord is by allowing the Lord to sanctify us fully so that we can be one with Him. Jesus states in verses 14 and 16 that His followers are not of this world and because of that Jesus asks God to protect them from the evil one who is satan. Jesus is asking that we are to be protected spiritually. How do we know this? In verse 19, Jesus states that He sanctified Himself so that they too may be truly sanctified. Sanctify means to set apart. Jesus had set Himself apart from His Heavenly home to come on this earth in human form without sin to die on the cross. He did this so that we can have forgiveness of sins and to have the Holy Spirit dwell within us. This is a spiritual event, not a physical event. His spirit will protect us spiritually. Our physical body will die at some point. So, if satan destroys us physically, he can't destroy us spiritually if we are totally sanctified through the blood of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will protect us spiritually. We are not of this world and the world hates us because of that (verse 14). Why are so many churches trying to please this world? Why are so many churches trying to stay neutral in our culture? Is it because of fear? If so, then we are not fully sanctified for the Lord and that shows disrespect for Him. We have to get into our head that we are not of this world and the world hates us. Why are we trying to please something that hates us? I would rather try

to please someone who loves me and Jesus loves us – He died for us. So, Jesus asks His Father to sanctify His disciples by the truth – His truth so they can be truly sanctified. Jesus wants us to be truly set apart from this world. This doesn't mean we buy a 1000-acre farm and live in the middle of it away from people and stay away from people. We tell others about Jesus because we are still in this world, but we don't allow ourselves to become of this world. We are set apart for Jesus. We show respect and honor to Jesus by allowing Jesus to truly and fully sanctify us through the Holy Spirit. We tell Jesus we want to be set apart from this world even if it means death or suffering physically. Jesus isn't just praying this for the disciples that were with Him before He went to the cross.

Let's finish with John 17: 20-21. Jesus states that His prayer is not just for those disciples that were with Him alone. His prayer is for all who will believe in Him and the Gospel Message. Then, Jesus repeats about us being one with the Father and Son through the Spirit as He did earlier so that the world can believe. Jesus is praying for us now. We are to be set apart from this dying world through the blood of Jesus. We need to be set apart so that we can reveal the Lord's Truth by the way we live and act. We are to be a holy people. The more my faith grows, the more I want to please Him and less I want to please this world. A watered-down Gospel Message will not save this world. Those who have been truly sanctified through Jesus make the best witnesses for Jesus. Those who have allowed the Holy Spirit to set them apart totally for Jesus know how to glorify Jesus. They know how to honor and respect Jesus - they allow themselves to be truly set apart for Him. Are you set apart for Jesus or have you been trying to satisfy this world or trying to satisfy yourself (pride)? Jesus has overcome this world and let's show respect and honor to Jesus by allowing Him to totally set us apart from this world through the working of the Holy Spirit. This world doesn't love you, but Jesus does. This Advent season would be a good time to focus on allowing ourselves to be set apart for Him. It's only a prayer away.

Lord, help us to be truly set apart from this world for you. Help us to show respect and honor by allowing your Spirit to sanctify us totally for you this Christmas season. As the Wise Men worshiped you in that manger with precious gifts, help us to worship you by allowing your Spirit to set us apart for you. Help

us to realize you have overcome this world. We want to be a better witness for you to this dying world. Help us not to want to please this world. Help us to please you more and more. Amen.

NLT Life Application Study Bible. Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.: Wheaton, 1996

The Strongest Strong's Concordance. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2001