

Peace for the Journey ... May 18, 2010

Scripture Reading: [John 17:1-26](#)

The Gospels tell us that Jesus prayed.

There are a number of passages in the Gospels that describe Jesus' prayer life. The Gospel writers seem to insist that following Jesus (as his disciple) means to follow his example by having an intentional, disciplined habit of praying. Followers of Jesus are expected to be people who pray.

The Gospels also tell us that Jesus prayed **for us**.

Not only did Jesus pray for his disciples, the ones who followed him during his earthly ministry, but John's Gospel tells us that Jesus prayed **for us**, the disciples who are alive today. In prayer, Jesus says, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word." That's us!

Think about what it means that Jesus prayed -- and is praying -- for you and for the church today. Think also about what Jesus asks God to do for us. He says, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, *that they may all be one*." (Emphasis added.) Before he was arrested, tried, convicted, and crucified, before he was raised from death to life and ascended into heaven, Jesus prayed that we may be one, in unity with one another. He said that our unity -- which he asks God to provide -- will be a sign to the whole world that He is God's Son.

As people who (hopefully) believe that God answers prayer, we should expect that God answers Jesus' prayers. We should, therefore, expect that God is at work in *our* lives to make us one, to create unity within the community of believers.

How is Jesus' prayer for you being answered in your life today? How is Jesus' prayer for the church being answered in your life today?

Join Jesus is praying for the unity of God's people, so that the whole world will know that Jesus is God's Son.