

Sermon Notes – April 18, 2021

The Stewardship of Prayer (*John 17:9-10*)

- I. The stewardship of SPECIFIC prayers. (*Vs. 9*)
 - A. Jesus prays specifically for the disciples; not the world.
 - 1. God’s name was manifested to them.
 - 2. They have kept God’s Word.
 - 3. They know everything comes from God. (*James 1:17*)
 - 4. They received the Word of God and believed. (*John 6:69*)
 - B. The church must pray specifically for answered prayer.
 - 1. The church in Acts 12 prayed specifically for Peter’s release.
 - a. Vs. 5: So Peter was kept in prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

- II. The stewardship of UNSELFISH prayers. (*Vs. 9b-10a*)
 - A. Jesus acknowledged the disciples ultimately belonged to God.
 - 1. They were given to Jesus; they belong to God.
 - 2. All things belonging to Jesus belongs to God.
 - B. The church must practice unselfishness in its’ prayer life.
 - 1. Not mine but thine.
 - a. “In this verse John has captured an extremely significant insight into the mind and heart of Jesus because in this prayer Jesus did not claim ownership of the disciples....If we had the same perspective as Jesus, we would not make statements such as “my church,” “my people,” and “my things”; but we would be speaking about “God’s church,” “God’s people,” and “God’s things,” which the Lord has loaned or given to us. When Christians start to reflect this spirit, their lives actually begin to evidence the transformation about which they so often glibly speak.” Gerald Borchert, *The New American Commentary*.

- III. The stewardship of FOCUSED prayers. (*Vs. 10b*)
 - A. Jesus was glorified through the disciples.
 - B. The church is to give God all praise, honor and glory! (*Psalms 37*)