

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.*

²²*The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,* ²³*I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me."* John 17:20-23

So much of Jesus' heart and love for His disciples, including us, is revealed in His prayer in this chapter. He begins by praying for Himself, followed by His disciples and then He prays for us – those who will believe in Him through their word, which is the gospel that has been passed on from one to another through the ages.

Jesus prays that we may be one with Him and become perfectly one, through the work of his Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit is the one who joins us to the Father and the Son. "But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him." (1 Corinthians 6:17). Holy Spirit's indwelling presence reveals the love of God to us and empowers us to love with His perfect love. Paul clearly states that "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:5)

So we see that Jesus has given us the power to love like He did and has made it possible for us to be one with Him through the Spirit whom He sent to us after He was glorified, that is, after the cross and resurrection. He prayed for us to be perfectly one and then He made it possible.

May we receive Christ and fully surrender to His work in our lives. May we follow His teachings and be transformed to become just like Jesus, loving others truly, laying down our lives for one another, looking out for their interests above our own, carrying their burdens and thereby revealing Him to the world.

"By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 13:35

- 1) Is unity as important to you as it was to Jesus?
- 2) What does it mean to you to be one with God?
- 3) How can you share and show this gospel with those who are in the world?

Based on today's reading, what is one thing God is saying to you?