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OUR LORDS PRAYER – JOHN 17

LESSON 11 vs. 7-8

Jesus continued (John 17:7-8 KJV) His prayer to the father. ***“Now they have known that all things whatsoever Thou has given me are of Thee (father). For I have given unto them the Words that Thou gavest me and they have received and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send me.”***

It is significant that by this point in His ministry the Twelve finally understood that as the Messiah He was not just a deliverer but was truly the Son of God. Receiving that understanding did not come early in His ministry. It took over three years for most of them to come to the fullness of that knowledge.

They followed Him when he initially called them because they believed Him to be the Messiah, but what exactly did that mean to them? The Jewish perception of that time was a deliverer who would raise an army, overthrow the Roman rulership, and establish a king's throne in Jerusalem. They had no clue about His divinity. One evidence of this was when James and John were seeking to sit one on his right hand and one on his left. Even their mother got involved in that request. It was the manner of many earthly kings to have their closest advisors or their most favored individuals sitting beside their throne. They were not even imagining yet that His throne was in heaven.

In Matthew 16:13-17 we see Jesus asking them, ***“Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man am?”*** They gave all kinds of answers except the correct one. Then Jesus asked them, ***“Whom say YOU that I am?”*** Only Peter had the right answer when he said, ***“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”*** Jesus then said that in their “flesh and blood” reasoning they could not have truly known it. He told Peter that he only knew it now because it was revealed directly to him by ***“my father which is in heaven.”*** (vs. 17)

Over the remainder of His ministry the other disciples had finally come to understand that He was not only a messiah (a general term) but was indeed the Christ, the Holy Anointed One sent from Almighty God.

They now truly understood that He was sent from heaven by Father. There was finally no more “wondering” or doubt about it. Two thousand years later we can now understand it and know it the moment we are saved. They did not achieve that understanding quickly. They had to overcome what they thought “messiah” meant. It was not an earthly messiah sent at that time to establish a kingdom. He was a divine heavenly savior sent to introduce the kingdom of heaven to earth.

We understand today. His kingdom is established in our hearts. He sits on heaven's throne. One day He will establish His kingdom on earth. The New Jerusalem is coming soon.