

Make Disciples! (Part 5)
The Comradery of Discipleship
(Jn. 17:20-22)

Introduction: Tanglewood Community Church is a great church. What makes this church a great church is that we have a great love for one another and for the Lord. But what especially makes this church great is, we serve a great Lord, and together, we seek to obey His commands and His great commission to be and make disciples. In this sermon series, we have defined discipleship as (Let's say it together...) "**Discipleship is a lifelong relationship with Jesus that makes us like Jesus as we do what He tells us to do as we share our lives with others.**"

We must and we should seek to protect our great unity. And if we do, our church will continue to be great to the degree that we continue to be unified in the Lord, around His word, and by doing His will, and loving Him and one another.

We come together on this What is known as "*Palm Sunday*" or "*The triumphal entry*." The beginning of "holy week." *The triumphal entry takes place in John 12...* Where Jesus is celebrated like a coming King and by chapter 18 (5 days later) He is arrested and headed for crucifixion like a common criminal. As Jesus enters Jerusalem, He knows He is mere days away from His crucifixion and He has need to spend some quality time with His disciples. So, in John chapter 13-16 Jesus spends time talking with and teaching His disciples about *servanthood, heaven, abiding in Him, the coming of the Holy Spirit* and now, on the night of His betrayal – He prays for their and our comradery as His disciples. *Jesus is concerned about our comradery as His disciples and as we make disciples together.*

I. The prayer for our comradery:

It is the greatest prayer ever prayed on earth and the greatest prayer recorded anywhere in scripture. This is the Lord's prayer!! Jesus is interceding for His disciples and all future believers.

A. There is a model for prayer we mistakenly call "The Lord's prayer" In Mt. 6

1. We know Jesus was not teaching them to pray this as a prayer because Jesus said, "*when you pray don't use vain repetitions*" (Mt. 6:7).
2. So, this was a model or pattern to show the disciples "how to pray." So, it's really the disciple's prayer model.

B. This prayer in John 17 – is truly "*The Lord's prayer.*"

As Jesus prayed this prayer, He had three things on His mind:

1. **Vv. 1-5 He prays for Himself** -
2. **Vv. 6-19 He prays for the eleven** –
3. **vv. 20 -26 He prays for you and me** and all future believers who would come to Christ and become disciples of Christ through the message of the apostles.

Did you know today we have two beings praying for our unity church – the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:26-27) Then, there is never a moment Jesus is not praying for us – Heb. 7:25 tells us *He lives to make intercession for us.*

Jesus prayed for our comradery – He knew we would need one another to complete His mission and carry out His great commission.

II. The participation of our comradery:

- A. **There is unity in our shared connection with Christ** – There ought to be a deep connection between all of us who are also connected to Christ. (1 John 4)
- B. **There is unity in our shared convictions about Christ** – Our beliefs are what bind us together. (1 John)
- C. **There is unity in our shared concern for the glory of Christ** – Jesus gave all true believers His glory by completing His mission and revealing God to us (17:4-6)

The chief purpose of our unity is so that the world may believe God sent Jesus (by our witness) and accept that God loves them as He does His own Son...

III. The purpose of our comradery:

Our comradery is to serve as a public witness to the world.

- A. **We are to live out our comradery in the world** – a hostile place, so we stand out.
- B. **We are to live out our comradery to the world** – so the world will see us and believe Jesus is who He is... *Our task as Christians is to bear witness to the lost world and share God's saving message.*

You and I are to be Jesus today! (1 Jn. 4:17) So that the world may see Him though us and believe!

IV. The practice of our comradery: The practice of our comradery ought to bring glory to God and an awakening to the world.

A. We already possess all we need to be the answer to Jesus' prayer -His glory within us (John 11:22, and note Rom 8:29),

We are not talking about His glory as God, we are talking about His redemptive, saving glory, won by the cross and at work within every believer.

1. One day we will witness His God glory in heaven (John 17:24; 1 Jn. 3:2).
2. But daily as we grow in the Lord, the glory He has placed within us (like new life, new creations, being children of God, doing good works, etc.), begins to grow and to reveal itself in what we say and do and the way we say and do it.
3. Again, the union of Christians (that they may be one) is likened to the unity the Son has with the Father (*as We are One*; cf. vv. 11,21).
4. Our comradery is further linked by Christ's indwelling of every believer (*I in them*). It is Christ in us and us in Christ that makes us one! So, as we practice our comradery together...

B. People do not see us and glorify us; they see the glory of the Lord through us and glorify and believe upon Him because of what He is doing in and through us. (Matt 5:16; 1 Cor 6:19-20).

Conclusion: Jesus came to Jerusalem to die on the cross for us and the very night He was betrayed, He was praying for us. *Jesus is concerned about our comradery as His disciples and as we make disciples together. We should be too.*

I trust that one day we all will want to be able to say to the Father, Like Jesus, "*I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.*" (John 17:4).