

Study Guide for March 20th, 2011. The Way of the Cross (II). John 17:6-19

Introduction: In this section Jesus prays for his immediate disciples. Aware of his soon departure, his prayer reveals the relationship that has been established and the challenges they will face in the mission that lies ahead. Indirectly, this is also a prayer for us today.

I. The Foundation of Jesus' Prayer: (John 17:6-8)

- A. What was the disciples' status before they followed Jesus? (See John 6:37)
- B. How did the disciples become Jesus' followers? (See also John 15:19)
- C. Describe the disciples' faith at this point? (See John 6:68-69 & 16:31-32)
- D. How did you become a follower of Christ? What is the measure of your faith now?

II. The Focus of Jesus' Prayer: (John 17:9-11a)

- A. Who is Jesus praying for? Who is Jesus not praying for? Why?
- B. What do the following reveal about the Father's attitude toward the world?
 - 1) John 1:9-10:
 - 2) John 3:16-17:
 - 3) John 12:47:
- C. Where is Jesus going? Where will the disciples be staying? Why?

III. The Request for Protection in Jesus' Prayer: (John 17:11b-16)

- A. What does Jesus address, **Holy Father**, reveal? (See Matt. 11:25-26)
- B. During his earthly mission, what had Jesus done for his disciples?
- C. Anticipating his departure, what does Jesus ask the Father to do for his disciples?
- D. What does Jesus **not** ask the Father to do for his disciples? Why?

IV. The Request for Sanctification in Jesus' Prayer: (John 17:17-19)

- A. What does Jesus mean when he asks the Father to **sanctify them** (the disciples)?
- B. What are the means the Father will use to fulfill this request by Jesus?
- C. Where does Jesus send his disciples? What pattern are they to follow?
- D. How do you sense the Father wants you to fulfill this mission in the world?