

EXPERIENCE THE LAND AND THE BOOK
WHEN JESUS STOPPED TO PRAY
JOHN 14:1-3; 17:1-26



The Heart of the Matter

The hardest work we can do is “knee” work. We’ll find anything else easier to do than pray. Yet Jesus not only told us that men “ought to pray and not to lose heart” (Luke 18:1), He showed us by praying Himself. One with the Father, Jesus still felt the need to pray—and He prayed all the time. After the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples but before the soldiers came for Him in Gethsemane, Jesus let us eavesdrop on His talk with the Father. It is truly “the Lord’s Prayer.” Found in John 17, it is one of the most remarkable and longest intercessions in all of God’s Word.



Discovering the Way

1. The Southern Steps—the Holy Place Where Jesus Prayed

During their last meal together, Jesus told His disciples that it was time for Him to go, but He encouraged them with the promise that He would return (John 14:1-3). After the meal, they all left the Upper Room, and Jesus stopped to pray, perhaps on the steps leading to the temple.

2. Jesus’s High Priestly Prayer (John 17:1-26)

Jesus’s prayer is a wonderful study in simplicity because it divides nicely into three sections: His prayer for Himself (17:1-5), His prayer for the disciples (17:6-19), and His prayer for all believers (17:20-26).



Starting Your Journey

Jesus’s prayer reveals three contrasts. First, on His way to suffer and die, He had us on His mind. Second, though He was leaving the world, He deliberately chose to leave us *in* the world. Third, His plan for the church is not uniformity or unanimity but unity.

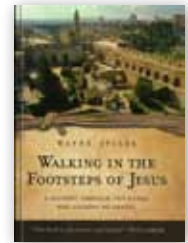


Tools for Digging Deeper



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