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The High Priestly Prayer
John 17: 1-26
On the walk to Gethsemane, close to midnight, the fifteenth of Nisan



Somewhere between the Upper Room where **they** had celebrated the Passover and **the garden of Gethsemane** where **He** was later arrested, **Yeshua's** intercessory prayer concluded **His** teaching ministry to **His apostles**. **His** priestly ministry, however, had not yet ended and **Jesus** moved steadily toward its completion in the atmosphere of prayer. It might have been at **the highest point of the Temple Mount**, as they paused for a few moments to survey its beauty lit up by the radiance of the Pesach moon; or in the heights of **the Mount of Olives** overlooking Jerusalem, or perhaps even at the gate of **the Garden** itself.

This is the longest prayer in the Bible, although you could read it in three minutes. I think that's a good indication of the length of public prayers. If you can't pray what you need to pray in three minutes, then you've got too much to say![1468]

This prayer was given in the shadow of the cross. All **eleven talmidim** were present and **the Lord** uttered a prayer that can perhaps best be described as the prayer of **the great High Priest**. After declaring: **In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world (John 16:33)**, I imagine **Yeshua** allowed a long silence to seal the moment. As **His** warnings and promises

began to sink in, I can only imagine **the apostles** feeling of helplessness as **they** looked up at the full moon in the sky. How vulnerable **they** must have felt, knowing **they** would soon be without **their Master**, who had led **them** and protected **them** for the past three years! It was hard to believe that the time had passed so quickly. It seemed as if **they** could hardly remember the time before **He** entered **their** lives, summoned **them** to follow, and gave **them** purpose.

Jesus prayed for three things in this great high priestly prayer. First, **He** prayed for **Himself** and the success of **His** mission **(John 17:1-5).** Secondly, **the Lord** prayed for the protection of **His apostles** as **they** fulfilled **their** purpose after **His** departure **(John 17:6-19)**. And thirdly, **Christ** prayed for the generations of believers who would follow **Him** as a result of the ministry of **His talmidim (John 17:20-26)**.