

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**JOHN 17****John 17**

The prayer recorded in John 17 is most likely spoken near or in the temple complex on Mount Moriah. The Lord Jesus could have gone into the Temple area, as He could have gone through the Temple area on the way to Gethsemane, or He could have gone around the retaining walls, but not likely. This is said because He used the vine and branches as an allegory for the fruitful relationship of those who follow Him and walk in obedience to His teachings. The face of the Temple had golden vines and clusters of grapes. The golden vines were the size of a man, purest gold. Whichever the case, John 18:1 says, ***"When Jesus had spoken these words (John 17), He went out with His disciples over the Brook of Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and his disciples entered."*** The Greek word is *πέραν (peran)*, which means ***"over, to cross over, beyond,"*** after they ***"went out,"*** more than likely that is, ***"went out,"*** of the Temple gates and *outside the city walls*, and crossed over the Wadi Kidron.

Could it be that the Lord Jesus paused and prayed this high priestly prayer for His disciples following Him at that hour, and for those who would follow in the future, all of us, before "crossing over the Kidron into the Garden of Gethsemane? Gethsemane means the "Place of the olive press." This truly was where not only the olives were pressed, but here, the Son of God faced His greatest challenge as the betrayal, forsaking by loved

one, the mocking trial and His substitutionary death by crucifixion was upon Him. Jesus prayed to His Father in heaven...

But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves. "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. "As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. "For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth. (John 17:13-18)

The word translated as "sanctify" in English has the basic meaning of "setting apart." Followers of Jesus are those *"who are set apart from the world, the world system and all that entails, and dedicated and consecrated to God Himself."* The Lord knew we must be in this world but prayed we would not be ***"of this world"*** in our thoughts, way of life, and focus. We are to be ***"set apart by truth, the Word of God, the Bible is truth."*** As followers of the Lord Jesus, the more we *learn the Word, live by the Word, and walk in obedience to the Word, the more and more we will grow in likeness to Jesus.*

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in heaven, please help me to love You and walk with You each day. Please help me be disciplined to read and study the Bible daily so I can know You better and love You more. Amen