

“Make it Known”  
 Anna Pinckney Straight  
 Old Stone Presbyterian Church ~ Lewisburg, West Virginia  
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**John 17:6-19**

*“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup> I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”*

There are many qualities, many aspects of living a faithful life that are important, but I believe none is **more** important than an active and meaningful prayer life.

You can know the Bible inside and out. You can go to church every Sunday. You can attend meeting after meeting, go on work camp after work camp, but unless you are a part of a continuing conversation with the God who made you, redeems you, and sustains you, who LOVES you, your faith is not living.

Prayer is the place where we take the stuff of life, the stuff of faith, and blend them together into faithful living. It is where we bring ourselves to God and we are transformed by God. And today, we are reminded, that Jesus prays for us.<sup>1</sup>

Jesus prays. For us. Not about us. Not directed to us. He knew that the disciples were listening, but this isn't a scolding disguised as a prayer. Jesus doesn't say,

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<sup>1</sup> For this paper I relied on the Rev. Michael D. Kirby's 2012 (Montreat, North Carolina) paper for the lectionary group "The Well."

- God, could you please make Peter stop talking so much.
- Or... thank God, whoops, Thank YOU, I'm not as dim as Matthew.
- Or... would you please make these disciples listen to me more and be wrong a little less??"

What we have here, in this section of John, is a glimpse into Jesus' honest, heartfelt prayer.

Prayers for his friends. The people he loved. The people he taught about the love of God. The things we heard about a chapter ago in the gospel of John. Today, we have a reminder—Jesus prays for us. For you. For you.

I don't know how many of you have been watching the television series "This is Us." Or, as some people call it, "the weekly cry." It's something of an emotional series.

In season two, there is an episode titled, "That'll Be the Day." And in it, the daughter, Kate, finds out that she is a finalist to be accepted into the music program that is, well, her dream. She only needs to submit another tape of her music.

Her parents are ecstatic. Her father offers to make a video.<sup>2</sup>

He says, "Kate! That face? And that voice? What if, what if I videotaped it?"  
Kate's response is fast and sure, "*I'd rather die. So, I'm just going to send in an audiotape.*"

You seek, Kate, like so many, doesn't feel good enough. She's not as smart as one brother. She's not athletic like her other brother. She doesn't feel worthy of her dad's praise.

She goes to her room, sets up her cassette tape recorder. (If you don't know what that is ask your parents.) And she starts to sing. It is, as her parents have said, amazing. As the camera pans up, we see her dad, just outside of the door, without her realizing it, videotaping her singing.

At some point she looks up and sees him there. She stops. Furious. And shouts, "DAD!" and gets up to slam the door.

"Kate! Keep going! I almost got the whole thing."

"*I told you I didn't want to be on camera.*"

"But this was just for you. I-I thought that, you know, if you saw how great you were, you'd reconsider sending in a video."

"*Dad! NO!*"

She stays angry. All she can see is that she **isn't** beautiful. **Isn't** worthy. She believes that her Dad is just saying these things because he has to- he's her dad, but deep down she is sure he doesn't believe them either.

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<sup>2</sup> This is Us (2016) s02e13 Episode Script "That'll Be The Day"

[https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/view\\_episode\\_scripts.php?tv-show=this-is-us-2016&episode=s02e13](https://www.springfieldspringfield.co.uk/view_episode_scripts.php?tv-show=this-is-us-2016&episode=s02e13)

Much later, Kate actually watches the tape. And realizes that her voice is gorgeous. But the real epiphany comes when she sees the reflection of her father in the mirror as he films her. And his love and pride cannot be denied. He loves her. He thinks she is amazing. He isn't just saying that, he believes it. It's written all over his face. And for a moment, Kate sees herself through her father's eyes. She sees herself as beautiful and smart and talented, too. She sees what he saw, that she is called and capable.

That's sort of what we are supposed to realize when we know that Jesus prays for us. It is an invitation to see ourselves through Jesus's eyes. As created in God's image. Beautiful. Smart. Talented. Called. Capable.

And we're going to need that. Because what Jesus is talking about in this portion of the prayer (that is a larger part of what is known as his farewell discourse in John), is<sup>3</sup> that we are going to need **all** of the skills and truth that Jesus has given. Given us- a word that is repeated over and over in this passage.

Jesus, who has given us truth and protection and joy and, most of all the Word. The Word of God as in the scriptures and the Word of God as in the Word made flesh, God's love embodied in the world.

Being people of faith, Children of God, doesn't mean we are saved from the world, it means we are sent into it. To speak of God's truth and love, to share the love with which God sees the world, the love as of a Father for his child, who sees their beauty and possibility.

The Bible doesn't talk about many of the issues we face in this world in 2018.

- How we can work to dismantle systematic inequality and poverty, issues raised by the new Poor People's Campaign that is being kicked off around the country today.
- Jesus doesn't talk about a wall or
- the second amendment or
- global climate change or
- what we should pay teachers or
- who should get health care.
- Is it better to age with grace, or do you fight getting older every step of the way?
- What makes a healthy relationship and
- how do we raise teenagers in a digital age.
- How you ARE a teenager in the digital age.

Jesus does tell us how God sees us, all of us, and tells us we should love one another as Jesus has loved us, and that we should take care of one another. "Tend my lambs, Peter. Feed my sheep." (John 15:12 and John 21: 15 – 18).

To do that, I think we need to start here- by remembering how God sees us. And that Jesus prays for us. Let's receive his prayers and pray for us, too. Amen. Amen.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=2437](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=2437)  
[https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary\\_id=1292](https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1292)