

Follow the Leader – Saturated In the Word - John 17:1-23

*“We pursue being a disciple making family: surrendered to Jesus, transformed by the gospel, and **saturated in His word.**”*

As we dig deeper into this high priestly prayer of Jesus this week we see the heart of our Savior. As we shared last week, this prayer is an opportunity to see Jesus conversing or communing with the Father. He prays for Himself, He prays for His disciples, and He prays for all believers. This week we unpack from this prayer what it means to be saturated by His Word. We see that the recurring request of Jesus is that his disciples will be one as God is one. He prayed that the disciples would be set apart by the truth of His word. We realize the only way we will be one is to allow His Word to be our guide. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be changed by the Word.

Discussion Questions* -- *do not feel the pressure to cover them all

1. Jesus closes out the record of His high priestly prayer by praying for those that would follow him because of the words of His disciples. He is talking about us as well. Think for a moment about the eternal impact those early disciples have had just by being obedient to the word and the command of Christ. Their obedience over 2,000 years ago has eternal impact today, even on us. We are a result of the sharing of the gospel and the discipleship in the gospel all these years. Think about your salvation lineage and heritage. How did you hear and receive the gospel? Who helped you grow in the gospel? Who are you building intentional relationship with to help them follow Jesus, be transformed by Jesus, and be on mission with Jesus? How can this be an encouragement for you in difficult times of ministry?
2. We see that Jesus prays a great deal for unity, even perfect unity for his followers. Unity is not uniformity, but it is a singular focus on the person and work of God. Jesus even gives the reason He prays for unity and that is played out in His mission. He prays for this for the sake of the world. That they may believe the Father sent Jesus and also that they may know Jesus was sent by the Father and that they are loved. Unity is extremely important. It is not something a church or people can create but must be something that is maintained. It is given by Christ and His work on the cross. It makes sense why the evil one does so much to bring division, disunity, and quarreling among the people of God. What can we do to protect against this and to maintain unity? How does being saturated in the word help protect us from the harm of disunity? How do we help maintain unity?
3. Jesus prays that we will reflect the Godly supernatural love that was displayed to us. How does being saturated in the word help us display that love? How have you found the best way to have a daily diet in the word and allow the word to

read you? When do you tend to justify your sinful actions brought to light by the word? How do you do this? (i.e. compare yourself to others, move on to the next section, stop reading. Etc.)

4. Most of us have a desire to be unified around the word of God and allow the word to consistently read us. However, we can from time to time find ourselves in a dry season, a busy season, and even a lazy season. We may have real questions. What would you recommend to someone going through this type of struggle? How much of these dry seasons are caused by sin? What can God do through us during these dry seasons?