



3 Nephi 17.¹¹⁻¹⁸— Meditation

¹¹And *he commanded that their little children should be brought. ¹²So they brought their little children and set them down upon the ground round about him, and Jesus stood in the midst; and the multitude gave way till they had all been brought unto him. ¹³*When they had all been brought, and Jesus stood in the midst, he commanded the multitude that they should kneel down upon the ground. ¹⁴And *when they had knelt upon the ground, Jesus groaned within himself, and said: "Father, I am troubled because of the wickedness of the people of the house of Israel."

¹⁵And when he had said these words, he himself also knelt upon the earth; and behold he prayed unto the Father, and the things which he prayed cannot be written, and the multitude did bear record who heard him. ¹⁶And after this manner do they bear record: The eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father; ¹⁷and no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak; and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father.

¹⁸*When Jesus had made an end of praying unto the Father, he arose; but so great was the joy of the multitude that they were overcome.

As part of his at-one-ment and, indeed, as the culmination of his at-one-ment, Jesus ascended into heaven to sit on the right hand of God. From there, he would rule until "he hath put all things under his feet."¹ But, in addition to this "cosmic" lordship, Jesus plays another much more personal and intimate role. From his privileged position at the right hand of God, Jesus "maketh intercession for us."²

Jesus often fulfilled this role in individual's lives during his ministry. When Jesus visited the Nephites after his resurrection, he offered a profound and moving example of the sort of intercession he offers at the right hand of God. As the assembled multitude offered up their own prayers to God, Jesus himself joined with them in prayer to the Father. He prayed with and for them. The words that he prayed were so great and so marvelous that even the most eloquent among them found it impossible to repeat them. Inconceivable was the joy that those present felt at hearing, as it were, their names escape his lips, ascend into heaven, and enter the ears of the Father.

We, like them, are encouraged to pray. We, like them, can have Jesus as partner in our prayer. We, like them, can know that from his privilege place at the right hand of God he speaks our name to Father and advocates for our welfare, our happiness, our victory, and, ultimately, our advancement. Yes, this "praying in the name of Jesus" is more than formula. It is invitation for him to bow next to us and become a partner in our prayers.

Oh, what joy there is in having him right there beside us, joining us in prayer, having our petitions

¹ 1 Corinthians 15.²⁷

² Romans 8.¹⁴

become his. Yes, what a marvelous, a magnificent, a perfect advocate he is!

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

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