

What Jesus Prays for His Disciples John 17:11-19

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. 12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. 14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. 18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth. NKJV

Jesus begins this great prayer by praying for Himself. But He quickly turns His prayer to His disciples. And as we saw last week Jesus prays for them for very good reasons.

They are going to be tried, their faith is going to be tried. They are going to have to question everything that they have experienced and known over the last 3 years.

But the real question is what does He pray for them.

Remember that Jesus prayers are not like yours and mine. God will answer them because they are in perfect harmony with the will of the Father. As Jesus never prayed anything that was contrary to the will of God.

So what is it that Jesus brings to the Father? What does He want the Father to do in regard to the disciples, and in regards to us. We have to remember that very quickly Jesus will transition from praying for the Apostles to praying for all those that will believe on Him through the testimony of these Apostles. You see that includes you and me and all other genuine believers.

I. The need for His prayer

A. *Now I am no longer in the world*

1. So sure is this to happen that Jesus considers it already done.
2. He was not guessing.
3. This was God's will, God's plan and it would be accomplished.
4. *I come to You*
 - a. He is going back to the Father, where He had been before His incarnation.
 - b. His concern was never with death, but with the sin He would bear and the suffering He would endure.

B. *But these are in the world*

1. On the other hand the disciples journey is really just beginning.
2. They have only been in training and they are about to graduate.
3. All the things He has protected them from and guided them through will soon come crashing down on them.
4. The temptation to just abandon the faith so to escape persecution.
5. His prayer is that although they must be in the world, that they would not be of the world.
 - a. 1 John 2:15-17 15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. NKJV

II. He prays that they would be kept.

A. *Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me*

1. To keep here means to preserve.
 - a. NT:5083 τηρέω tereo (tay-reh'-o); from teros (a watch; perhaps akin to NT:2334); to guard (from loss or injury, properly, by **keeping the eye upon**; (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)
2. *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name*
 - a. This is a God thing.
 - b. Jude 1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ: NKJV
 - c. 1 Thess 5:23-24 23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it. NKJV
3. *Those whom You gave Me I have kept*
 - a. He personally claims this.
 - b. John 10:27-30 27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one." NKJV

4. *And none of them is lost except the son of perdition*
 - a. *That the Scripture might be fulfilled*
 - b. Ps 41:9 9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. NKJV

B. *That they may be one as We are.*

1. These disciples were so divided that they had be arguing as late as just a few hours ago as to which of them would be the greatest.
2. 1 Cor 1:10-11 10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. NKJV
3. 1 Cor 3:1-4 3 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? 4 For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I am of Apollos," are you not carnal? NKJV
4. But there must be divisions when there are those who are in error.
 - a. 1 Cor 11:18-20 18 For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. 19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. NKJV
 - b. Jude 1:3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. 4 For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.
5. God does not intend for the righteous, the true, to give up to those who are ungodly, to those who are false teachers.
 - a. I remember being in a meeting and hear a woman preacher, with presumed piety that she did not claim to know what God's word

meant.

6. But there are some who will have to give an account for dividing churches over personalities and insignificant doctrines.
 - a. Col 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, NKJV

III. He prays for their joy

- A. *But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.*
- B. *I have given them Your word;*
 1. *The world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

IV. He does not pray that they be removed from the world

- A. *I do not pray that You should take them out of the world,*

V. He prays that they should be kept from the evil one.

- A. *But that You should keep them from the evil one.*
- B. *They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*
- C. *As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.*

VI. He prays that God might sanctify them

- A. *Sanctify them*
- B. *By Your truth.*
 1. *Your word is truth.*
 2. *And for their sakes I sanctify Myself,*
 3. *That they also may be sanctified by the truth.*