

## **“Father, Sanctify Them and Protect Them”**

**John 17:1-19(vv. 13-19)**

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### **I. Historical and Biblical Context**

The past several lessons we have been granted the pleasure of experiencing how Jesus has given the disciples a private ministry of the Word in Chapters 13-16. He has washed their feet and predicted his betrayal. There have been many questions and answers from Peter, Thomas, and Philip (Chapters 13-14). We have experienced the promise of the Holy Spirit which convicts us and will guide us into all truth and about Judas who did betray the Lord. In this context we are experiencing how relations of the disciples to Christ and the relation of the disciples to one another in Chapter 15. In Chapter 16 we have shared how we mean by “a little while” and how even that separation from us will be turned into joy. What a divine revelation when the disciples are experiencing the revelation of the Jesus in this very private ministry. When something is done in privacy it demonstrates how we are to live under a new commandment-to love one another and this is essential if we are to be in unity. It was Jesus taking aside the disciples personally to share in a private setting them aside belonging just to Him for a “little while”. He really wanted them as disciples to be richly blessed the more so that they will not stumble or be caught off guard and fall away.

So, it is with us as today in our discipleship development we are being encouraged to be the same: be righteous, have personal integrity and godly character because the ruler of this world, Satan will try to prevent us from being convicted by the Message of Jesus as was mandated by His Father. So, Jesus being on a mission...prayed a glorified prayer and now he prays to God to sanctify the disciples. Sanctification is one of the major doctrines in the Bible. We now see Jesus is sealing this private ministry with prayer. It is God’s will to sanctify us – the process of God’s grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God’s righteousness.

Sanctification results in holiness, or purification from the guilt and power of sin...that willingness to do wrong. To be sanctified is be separated from the world, and a setting apart for God’s service, is a concept found throughout the Bible. We are sanctified by the God the Father, God, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all done by God’s

purpose and commands. This process continues during our lives as believers. This implies effort on our part believing in Jesus Christ by faith. These are putting to death evil deeds and works of the flesh...we must separate ourselves (Gal.5:19-21) and walk in the Spirit to display the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-24). Thusly, Jesus had to pray to give us keeping power as He was glorified to do the mission and so sanctified us in this wonderful prayer. Thank God for the most effectual and powerful activity in a Christian's life ...Prayer.

## II. The Lesson Title: "Father, Sanctify Them and Protect Them"

The works of being glorified and sanctified is in today's lesson which we see in this prayer of Jesus, which is not identical with the prayer in Gethsemane reported in the Passion passages in Matthew 26, Mark 14, and Luke 22. Here we see terms such as "glory (7 times), glorify, sent (6 times), believe, world, love". The prayer is intended to summarize in Jesus' own words his relationship with the Father and the relationship he wished his disciples to maintain with him and the Father. This prayer is divisible into three distinct parts: 1) himself (1-5); 2) his prayer for the disciples (6-19), and 3) his prayers for all believers present and future (20-26). The first two parts of verses 1-19 we will cover today. Scholars presume this prayer is just before the small company of disciples left the room where they had eaten together or as they make their way out of the city, across the Kidron Valley of Gethsemane. Jesus prays for Himself to God to be Glorified! (1-5). The Lord's Prayer!

### 1. vv. 1-5. Glorification.

It is recording the gesture of Jesus... "he looked toward heaven and prayed". The hour has come to which Jesus had often prayed and referred to the Cross as His "hour" (2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23; 13:1). The time has arrived for him to die. He is praying to The Father that his mission to the world would be made known through the Cross. Eternal life consists of a growing knowledge (which we never can get enough of the only true God, as opposed to false gods. Jesus made known to the Father that he is completing the work God gave Him to do. He looked to the Father to restore Him to the glory He had in heaven before He left. This indicates Christ's preexistence and deity (1-14). O, glory, Jesus is talking to the Father...the time has come. He was conscious of a "calendar" per se; even when Mary at the Wedding in Cana, the time was not ripe to intervene. Well, he did do a few miracles, but the "right time has not yet come". This is truly a statement of Jesus' evaluation of the purpose of his life, death, resurrection, and

ascension. The Son glorified the Father by revealing his act of sovereignty of God over evil. The compassion of God for humankind and the finality of us as believers. Jesus focused his entire career on fulfilling the Father's purpose and on delivering the Father's message. He now petitions the Father to glorify him by returning him to the place he had before the world was created (vs. 5).

There is no boundary on what our God can do!! Jesus is to magnify God through praising His name and honoring His commandments doing this through His perfect obedience and His sacrificial death. Glory is beauty, power or honor, a quality of God's character that emphasizes his greatness and authority. It's a divine quality beyond man's understanding. It is a visible presence, also. Not a substance, though sometimes God does this in a visible way (fire or dazzling light) and he does it in Christians' lives by being transformed (2 Cor. 3:18) and even in heaven, where it will be seen everywhere (Rev. 21:23). Additionally, glory is praise...an audible and honoring means which His creatures give to Him (Ps. 115:1; Rev. 5:12-13).

## 2. **vv. 2-3**. The Scope of Christ's Authority.

These verses express the scope of the authority that Christ exercised in his incarnate state. He was empowered to impart eternal life to those who had been given him. Life is in Christ. These words and others like them emphatically express the central purpose of Jesus: to glorify the Father by imparting life to men. Then it defines the nature of the relationship between this relationship. Life is active involvement with the environment. A worm is content in the soil; we need the wider environment – the earth, sea, and sky but also contact with other human beings. We must know God, so Jesus is the eternal life, so we are required to know God in his divine glory.

## 3. **vv. 4-5**.

God had begun a good work in Jesus, so now Jesus is saying it is completed task. To all intents and purposes/testimony, it was already done. Though obstacles were many and still are to us as his disciples, Jesus never once faltered in this movement of God's will. He had one main petition – that he would be received back to his glory, he had relinquished to accomplish his task. His return to this pristine glory implies unmistakably his preexistence and equality with the Father. This further

claimed he and the Father are one (John 10:30). Thusly, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ with praise, honor, glory and acknowledgement that he is without boundaries; he has the scope and the authority and ask Him to finish the good work he has started in you as a disciple to learn and study and praise Him for all he is doing! **Jesus Prays to God for His Disciples to be sanctified (6-12).**

By far the largest part of Jesus' prayer relates to the disciples. He was must more concerned about them than about himself. He was sure of the suffering that was inevitable and the victory that was certain. The disciples, like us today, are of a variable quantity; in and of ourselves, we would most likely fail in our mission. Nevertheless. Jesus prayed for them with confidence that they would be kept by the Father's power and presented for future ministry (the weeds and the wheat together) which Jesus gives in these verses 6-12!! Truly a prayer for the keeping and oneness of all believers.

#### 4. **vv. 6-8.**

They have been given to Jesus by God the Father (a testimony of the power of authority and its results). What an assignment we have as leaders. These disciples were obedient; accepted the message Jesus gave them; in spite of much misunderstanding on their part. Though they may not have comprehended it instantly, as we do today. But they recognized him as the messenger and had grown progressively. Now the supreme test is to have them be preserved against the persecution that would separate them from him and one another.

#### 5. **vv. 9-10. Prayer for Present and Future.**

So Jesus prays for present and future believers to be in unity. We observe Jesus' sensitivity, so he asks the Father to keep them through His name, true to the revelation of God being with them, implying a new union.

#### 6. **vv. 11-12. Intercessory Prayer.**

The Prayer implies how Jesus protected the disciples in his earthly ministry; the power of intercessory prayer that they were the Eleven were under his care except one, the same interests, and responsibilities in a hostile world. Jesus was leaving them, and some will not make it to the end. What a prayer!

## 7. **vv. 13-19**. **Prayer for Sanctification.**

Jesus prayed to God to “Sanctify them.” Jesus prayed not only for their safety, but also that they might have joy in spite of the coming conflict.

- Verse 13: There is nothing in the world to promote their joy. We as disciples must not like anything take our joy!
- Verse 14: the very fact of receiving the Message of God from Jesus differentiated them from the world at large...a different nature and affiliation. What a radical contrast. Taking a stand with Jesus means being susceptible to the same rejection he had experienced.
- Verses 15-16: Jesus is asking that they be removed from a disagreeable and dangerous environment/kept from evil. They with Jesus had a mission of unity that binds them to Christ and separates them, which is inherent, not artificial.
- Verse 17: Consecrate/“Sanctify” means to “separate or to set apart” for a good purpose. Make them holy. The believer is so changed by the working of God’s Word in his/her life that he/she is separated from evil and to God. It’s a new devotion to truth in Jesus.
- Verse 18: You sent me, so I send them also. Being “sent” implies a definite mission unifying himself with the disciples with authority into danger and peril of death, encountering the same problems. Thusly, this is warning, commission, and encouragement.
- Verse 19: Jesus was devoting himself to God in the interest of his work. This faith of Jesus implies sanctification being set apart. I separated myself (no sin) to do your will, so that they may benefit through my salvation of the truth.

### III. **Conclusion.**

Are you dedicated/devoted to the will of God the Father! Sanctify us Jesus! Keep us! Protect us! Remove from us any disagreement and danger. Send us! We glorify and honor your name in this task before us! Help us to complete it. In Jesus Name. Amen! Amen!