

November 23rd, 2025

## **John 17:6-19 - Father, Preserve Your People (Sermon Transcript)**

If you've been watching a TV show and all the characters in a lot of TV shows, they're, they kind of, they're all the same, just a little different, especially sitcoms on tv. And it's always interesting when a kid is going off to college and there's even Dr.

Pepper commercials about this too. Okay? And so the mom is always sending them off and just saying, don't forget to take a shower to eat your veggies. Be nice. Do your homework right? And they're, 'cause they're just not wanting to let go. The dads are over there and just say, don't get in trouble. All right?

And so you see this, this, hey, this last minute advice before they go into this completely different and new season without their parents. We see this take place in John chapter 17. Jesus is just moments away from being arrested, from being, uh, sentenced to death and then rising again, and then just really a few weeks out from ascending into heaven, so Jesus knows.

He's just got a few more moments with his disciples, and so we're gonna see him give some last minute advice as he's about to send them out into a season without him. Now, we know from John 13 through 16 that he's not leaving them alone, that he gives them the comforter, the Holy Spirit, but the disciples don't fully understand this yet, and so he's giving this last minute advice for them to cling to.

And the disciples aren't aware fully of the details Jesus is. And so as we read through John 17, six through 19, the second part of Jesus's prayer, we're going to see some incredible truths, not just for the the disciples to clinging to, but for us to cling to, to hold on tightly more important than veggies, more important than homework.

These truths provide great comfort to our souls. RC Sproule says, prayer is where the child of God lays hold of the promises of God. And in these, in this prayer, we're going to see three incredible promises that are part of Jesus's prayer for us to lay hold of. So let's read John 17, six through 19, and then we will respond to the reading of God's Word.

I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world, yours. They were, and you gave them to me and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given



them the words that you gave me. And they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you and they have believed that you sent me.

I am praying for them. I'm not praying for the world, but for those whom you have given me for, they are yours. All mine are yours and yours are mine, and I'm glorified in them. And I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world and I'm coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me that they may be one even as we are one.

While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, which is Judas, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I'm coming to you and these things, I speak in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

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, I do not ask that you take them out of the world. But that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world. Just as I'm not of the world sanctify them in the truth. Your word is truth as you sent me into the world.

So I have sent them into the world, and for their sake, I consecrate myself that they also may be sanctified in truth. This is the word of the Lord. Father, open our eyes to behold the wonderful truths of your word. Lord, we see. These incredible promises in our lives that you have made, that they're answered, and that we can cling to.

I pray that we will leave here encouraged by these incredible truths. In your name we pray, amen. My favorite dessert of all time is cheesecake. Amen. Of all time. It is the best cheesecake. I went out to dinner with my family last night and I ate way too much, and then the waitress comes by and says, can I interest you in dessert?

I'm like, I'm not interested in dessert, because she was like, do you like chocolate? I'm like, I don't really like chocolate. And then she says, do you like cheesecake? And I said, I'll have one slice of cheesecake please. Right. 'cause I love cheesecake This week, merit is making my favorite cheesecake. It is an Oreo cheesecake, and there are so many different layers to it.

It is so good. There is Oreos in it. There is the cheesecake part of it. There is a great crust. I mean, the whole portion of it is every bite is glorious. I've never said no to cheesecake and I don't know if I've ever had a bad cheesecake. But this one is my favorite cheesecake. Currently. There could be, you know, if you want to make it a cheesecake to see if you can top it, I'll take it.



You know, we'll try it out. All right. But every bite is just rich with flavor and so much goodness. And John 17, six through 19. Is incredibly rich. Every part of it is just, every bite of it is just incredibly good. It just leaves you going, I want another bite. I want another bite. It is theologically layered with incredible, incredible bites of truth, and so Jesus modeling for us in this prayer.

It shows us that our prayers should be layered with the rich, incredible truths of God's word. That we are not just surface level prayers, that we can dive in and just proclaim incredible theological truths. In our prayer, and as we grow in our understanding of scripture, as we grow to delight in what we believe that we can include these things in our prayer.

And so today what we're going to try to do in 40 ish minutes is eat an entire cheesecake in one setting, okay? Where I wish that we could just take one slice and just kind of slow, walk it through with a cup of coffee and enjoy it. But we aren't gonna be able to do that. And so what I hope as we leave here today, that this just gives you a taste of, of all that we believe all that is true.

All that is good. Every one of these requests made by Jesus in this prayer. There's three requests are intended to encourage us, for us to just hold close to, to encourage us while we are in the world. To deepen our faith in the Lord and really to be bathed in the truth of God's word. Here in this text, Jesus is praying specifically for his disciples.

There's likely at least 11 people here. At least 11, whether others gathered around, we don't know, but we know there's at least 11. Judas is already gone. Jesus even mentioned Judas in his prayer. And so he is praying specifically for his disciples, and they are about to endure something they never thought they would endure.

They are going to abandon Jesus. They're going to deny Jesus. They're going to run away when it gets hard, when Jesus dies on the cross, they're gonna want nothing to do with it. They're gonna run in fear. They're gonna hide until they see and find out that Jesus rose again. So over the next. Three to four days.

It is a wild adventure for the disciples, and they have no idea what's coming. I mean, is this not how we live our lives? I have no idea what is going to take place fully, the full picture over the next week. I could tell you what's gonna happen tonight and tomorrow because I have put things on my calendar.

I know that on Tuesday I'm gonna eat cheesecake all day. Right? That's my part of my plan, right? Or at least in the evening on Wednesday. I don't know. I got nothing. All right. Thursday, football and Thanksgiving. Okay. But I don't know all the details



of in my calendar, right? Do you? No. The disciples have no idea what is going to take place ahead of them, but Jesus does, and in this moment when he is wanting for his disciples to trust and believe in him, he's praying three different things for them to cling to over the next few hours.

And I don't believe he's just praying these prayers for his disciples. I think these incredible truths are for us as well, that while he had his disciples specifically in mind in that moment, that by application, we can take his prayer and say, I believe Jesus is praying for this for me as well, based on what the scripture teaches about these three different prayers, which is encouraging.

One author says, the Savior is praying for you this moment as though you are the only soul he had to care for. This is our good shepherd who loves us and is caring for us. Who knows what's coming up and knows the truths that we need to cling to. The truth stands because Jesus makes three petitions. And he lays them on a foundation that they can stand on.

So verses six through 10 really are just setting the stage for his petitions. He's gotta lay a foundation as he does in verses one through five. And as he does in the third part, he lays a foundation for his request to God to stand on without a foundation. There's nothing to stand on. So Jesus is gonna show what this prayer, these prayers can stand on.

And so we get to verse. Six, I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours. They were, and you gave them to me. And they have kept your word, y'all say manifested, manifested, manifested. What it's showing us is that Jesus has made clear to us the holy character of God.

This is what verse six is telling us, that Jesus has made clear to us the holy character of God. You cannot tell, but I have terrible eyesight thanks to contacts. Nobody really knows. I have to tell you guys that I am practically blind if I take my contacts out. And so every once in a while when I take my contacts out and I put my glasses on, I, I will set my glasses on the nightstand and I'll wake up in the middle of the night forgetting that I can't see, and it is a adventure trying to figure out where I need to go because all of a sudden I don't know the room I'm at.

Right? I don't know where a light switch is, and I'm just kind of walking around in the dark blinds. Kind of familiar with everything. Even when I turn the light on, I can't fully see everything. It is just blurry. And so by God's grace, I have con, I have contacts in that I wear now. I made the shift from glasses to contacts at a very specific time in my life.



I wore glasses and in Forbes since I was like seven or eight. And then in middle school I was playing basketball and my dad. Um, would not let me wear my glasses. He would not let me get contacts and he wouldn't let me get glasses or wear my glasses playing basketball. So his suggestion, which it's amazing that I still have a relationship with him to this day because of this, was to get those old goggles that wrapped around real tight, and that's why I wore as a middle schooler playing basketball.

Man, and I would admit I was made fun of until I got on the court and showed 'em. I was better than all of them, and they just can make fun of me while they were losing. All right. That's what I like to think. It wasn't the case. And so I wore these goggles and so I was 15 and I went to the eye doctor and the doc, I tell the doctor I can't see the baseball when I'm playing baseball.

I can't hit it. My prescription must be bad. And he said, no, the issue's not your prescription. The issue is your peripheral vision. The you can't see the ball 'cause it's going blurry, blurry, clear. And so he gave me context and now I see everything clearly. This is what Jesus has done for us. Everything in life, outside of the clear picture that Jesus has given us is blurry and dark.

And that there is no reason for any of us, this is not God's design to live in a half blurry, half clear world that Jesus has manifested who God is. That word manifested is just an incredible word that says He's revealed it and made it very clear to us. It is whatever 4K is compared like the Holy 4K. It is just crystal clear.

You don't see any pixels, you don't see anything. What God Jesus has done is made it clear to us. Who the father in heaven is. Amen. The Old Testament gave a constant glimpse of who God was. The New Testament would tell us it was like a shadow, like you don't get the the real thing, but it's like a mystery.

Was it fully made clear to who? To the people of God, who Jesus was. And so when Jesus came to earth, his soul work. And glorifying the father in heaven was to make clear to the people of God who the father was, and he did it. And he says, I have manifested, I have made known. I've brought to light, I've made visible.

I've revealed to your people who you are. They do not have a blurry picture of who the father is anymore. It's not pixelated. It is crystal clear because of Jesus. And so because of Jesus, we don't live in dark anymore. We don't live in blurry. It is clear who our father in heaven is. John one, four through five.

It says in him referring to Jesus was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. This idea of



manifestation light was, is a major theme throughout the entire book of John. John wants us to know that Jesus came to a dark and sinful world to shine the light of the glorious grace of the Father to all people.

Jesus has made it very clear. But what has he made? Very clear. Well, Jesus tells us, I have manifested what Your name. All right, let's try again. I have manifested what your name to the people whom you have gave you, who gave me out of the world. So Jesus tells us exactly what he's made clear and he's made clear the name of God.

Now when we hear the word name, we just think of letters. Alright? That's what you see. My name is Matthew. I go by Matt. And it's just a few letters, right? But the Old Testament time and even, uh, Jesus's day and age, the word the name referred to a person's entire character. All they were, all they who they could be.

He represented the entirety of this individual. And so when Jesus says, I have manifested your name, I have made clear, I have revealed your name. What he is saying is I have revealed your holy character to your people. I have revealed your person. I have revealed everything about you, that all of God's character is in view here.

Jesus has made the father known by revealing what the father is like. He didn't just say, Hey, let me, let me tell you about our father in heaven. His name is God. And the disciples like, whoa. It went. It didn't work that way. It was a, this is who God is. He's holy, he is gracious, he is merciful. He is all of these incredible things.

Even in this text later on in verse 11, he describes his father as what? Holy, holy Father. Holy Father Jesus has made known to us exactly who the Father is. Now, o Over the last this series, we've been stopping and jump jumping into parts of tradition and prayer, and at the end of every prayer we see. We close.

You'll hear me close. In your name we pray. Amen. Now, this is not just some like I, I've said all these things and now I need to say the magic words in order for them to come to. To reality here. So in your name we pray, Jesus. Amen. All right. That's not what the case is. What we're doing is saying, only I'm submitting this request.

I am praying it because I know that you are holy and awesome and you hold all things in your hand. You're sovereign, you are good, you are just, and you love us. And I, I'm submitting to you, God, in your name, in your character. We pray. Amen. Amen. And Jesus reveals the Father to us. 'cause he himself is God.

And so when the disciples look on the face of Jesus, they're not just looking at a carpenter, they're not just looking at another person, they're looking at God himself.



And so for three years, they saw the power of Jesus on display. In the Miracles, they saw the power of truth proclaims in his parables.

They saw his love and compassion towards broken and hurting people. They saw his anger towards religious foolishness who have just completely rejected the teaching of his word. And in a few short days, they will see his good and holy sacrifice and his power over death. They had looked God in the face and in revealing the holy character of God the father.

Here's what we see. We're halfway through the sermon and we're only in verse six. I've manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. World. Let's focus on these next. This next sentence, yours. They were, and you gave them to me and they have kept your word yours. They were were, you have gave them, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

We see three different truths being taken place here. The first one is yours. They were, so what Jesus is saying, here are these disciples. Here are these 11 men. They belonged to you and you have given them to me. And they have kept your word, yours. They were. Now, as we sit here and we can easily skip over these phrases throughout John 17, 'cause Jesus will say this over and over again, yours, they were, yours were.

Now they're mine. Now we're together. And it's just, you kinda get lost in all of it. Yours they were. So what is Jesus implying here? What is he saying? Is that these people, these disciples belonged to the father before they belonged to the disciples. And this is where we say this is a theologically rich prayer.

'cause we get into Ephesians chapter one and we see this incredible work of the Trinity, where God, the Father, before the foundations of the world established this plan to redeem sinners. And he, he predestines and he calls them and brings them into his family. But it's only through Jesus Christ. Yours.

They were. Jesus says, and you gave them to me. See, the Father pulls those out of the world and he gives us to Jesus. We see the eternality of the gospel that Ephesians one, three through 12, just this in incre. It's one long sentence that Apostle Paul writes. Blessed that blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love.

He predestined us for adoption to himself as sons, through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of His glorious grace with which he has



blessed us in the beloved in him. We have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, and all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.

In Him. In Him, we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things. According to the council of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of His glory. This is, uh, how incredible and awesome is our God. Amen.

That before the foundations of the world, he sets in a plan to adopt us into his family, and he makes it possible through Jesus Christ, yours, they were. Jesus says, and now Jesus says, and you have given them to me. This is a, the father says. Here's son, I, I've got this incredible people for you. I want you to die for them.

These are your people. They're incredible. They're wonderful. I love them. Here's my gift to you. Why do you think Jesus says in Philippians two for the joy? He went after the cross because he loves us and he sees us as this incredible gift from the Father. You gave them to me. Now, this is a theme. These two phrases, a theme all throughout John.

John 6 35 through 40, Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen, you have seen me, and yet you do not believe all that the father gives me will come to me and whoever comes to me, I will never cast out.

For, I have come down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me, and this is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of all that he is given me, but raise it up in the last day for this is the will of my father, that everyone who looks on the son and believes in him should have eternal life and I'll raise him up on the last day.

You remember your first vehicle? Oh yeah. Yeah. Mine was a red. Ford F-150. It was a stick shift. And so yes, I can drive a stick shift. I don't even know if they make 'em anymore, but I can do it. All right. And so it was my dad's truck that he had bought, and then one day he hands me the keys and says, here it's yours.

Go for it. And now I can take that and say, this is great. I love this. And then just sit in my room and do nothing with those keys. And so I didn't do that. I got in my truck and I went, the first thing I did was I went to Winn-Dixie to get ice cream. That was the first thing I ever did driving that. Tell cheesecake and ice cream.



We're getting dessert talk today. Okay? And so I took those keys and I got into the truck. And what happens when I insert those keys? The keys do exactly what they're intended to do. They start the vehicle, and this is just a, I hope, a helpful illustration for what has taken place in this first. That God the father, he owns the truck and he says, here, son, take this.

It's yours. I've given you this gift. And the keys are like the disciples here who respond to the gospel. The keys know exactly what to do 'cause they're in the hands of Jesus obedience to the words of Christ. Jesus says, not only do they belong to you, but you've given to me, and they have responded in obedience.

John three 16 through 21. For God so loved the worlds that he gave his only son that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life. And we kind of, we love that, right? What the greatest verse in all of scripture, and we stopped there, but let's keep reading. John 17, 3 17, for God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be safe through him.

Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only son of God. And this is the judgment. The light has come into the world and people love the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light.

And does not come to the, like lest his work should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in not for in God, that God is doing this incredible work and the disciples have believed exactly who the father is because of Jesus.

And so Jesus lays this foundation for our prayers, this eternity of the gospel. The beauty and extravagance of all of who God is, that Jesus came to die for us and with Joy, he died for us. He lays this foundation for his request. Anybody watch those? The home makeover shows where they go in and restore a home, right?

This is usually what we watch when there's nothing else on TV or sports are over, and it's Julie's time with the remotes, and this is what we're watching. Okay? Which I find interesting. And so they're looking for houses to maybe purchase. Or they're doing repairs, and then they go through and there someone says, and you pull something back and it's like the foundation has a crack in it.

And what's the response? Oh no, and then you go to commercial, right? This is just dramatic thing because we know a house cannot stand on a faulty foundation, and so Jesus has made it clear this is the foundation, that this is a gospel that spans far.



Far further than our lives. This is eternal gospel that is hinging on the character of a Holy God.

Prayer is only possible because our present life in Christ is founded on his work. There is no prayer if there is no death and resurrection of Jesus. I fully believe that. We could not pray and say, father, hear my cry when Jesus just can't get the work done.

Matthew 7 24 through 27 tells us of this story that Jesus shares. We can either build our lives on a solid foundation or we can build it on faulty premises, and we are guilty of building our lives on faulty premises. Are we not? Yes, I'm gonna build my request based on my good works. I'm a religious person.

God, you should hear my prayers. This is how the Pharisees acted. We build our lives on money and health and on so many other things. When Jesus says, build your house on me, I am a solid rock. I'm a firm foundation. If you build your life on me, nothing will falter. Amen. And here's why. 'cause we get into these incredible truths that Jesus proclaims.

He's not praying for the world that is significant. He's not praying for lost people. He's praying for his people. Jesus is not up in heaven praying for those who do not belong to him. He's praying for us, which should burden our hearts to go and reach as many lost people with the gospel as possible.

So what does Jesus pray for and why does it matter for us today in 2025, almost 2026? Why do these prayers matter for us today?

The first prayer in verses 11 through 13 is that we are preserved in the name of the Father.

Verse 11 says, and I'm no longer in the world. Start in verse nine. I'm praying for them. I'm not praying for the world, but for those whom you have given me for, they are yours. All mine are yours and yours are mine, and I'm glorified in them. What a joy that is, that Jesus finds delight in us. And I'm no longer in the world, but they are in the world and I'm coming to you.

Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me that they may be one even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction that the scripture might be fulfilled. Jesus says, holy Father, keep them in your name.



Word kept. Is guarded, protected to hold, close to what the name of God. Keep them close to your holy character. Guard them. Protect them. Don't let them go. While I was here on earth, father I did this, but now I'm leaving 'cause I don't, I don't live here. My home is an eternity with you. And so when I'm away, keep them close.

Can I tell you something that I've just wrestled with this week, uh, in this text, I don't know how many times I've prayed throughout my life where, and honestly, it's probably more often the prayers don't get answered the way I want them to be answered, which. It's good 'cause they're always answered the way God wants 'em to be answered.

And that's better. Okay? And so oftentimes it discourages us to pray. Well, I don't know if God's gonna answer this one. Well, that's not the, you've got a poor sight of God here and his character, but here's what I know and here's what I believed and kind of settled on this week. Jesus is fully God, correct?

Amen. Okay. This side of the room agrees. What about this guy, this side? Okay. Jesus is fully God, correct? Yes. And he has aligned himself with the will of the Father, correct? Amen. Okay guys. Alright. This side over here. All right. These are, these are easy wins here, all right. And Jesus has aligned himself with the will of the Father, correct?

Amen. Which for me, if Jesus is praying a specific prayer. Then that prayer is going to get answered exactly the way Jesus prays it. He's not praying something that he hopes the Father kind of like, oh, I don't know if we're in agreement on this. God, no. I don't believe that to be the case. If Jesus is specifically praying, father, keep them in your name, then that prayer is answered.

He knows it's answered. He's already talked about that. It's answered. Let's look at John 13. Okay. John 13, which fits in the context, the greater context of John 17. I'm not speaking of all of you. I know whom I have chosen, but the scripture will be fulfilled. He we're reading the wrong verses here. Okay, hold on.

Let me go. Sorry. We don't have 'em here. But anyways, what Jesus says earlier in the text is that if you are in the hands of the Father, no one can take you out of it. He already knows this to be true. He already knows that the father is going to be holding onto them that nothing can take them out because the father is guarding them and keeping them close.

They're safe and secure.



The only one he lost he says is Judas. But Jesus didn't lose Judas. Judas never belonged to Jesus. Judas was lost because he was lost and never believed that Jesus was the son of God. Those were those verses I just started reading in John 13 that scripture even told us in Psalms that Judas was going to do this.

And so Jesus prays for his people to be kept. Doesn't it pray for lost people to be kept 'cause they don't belong? And I fully believe that Jesus is saying. Preserve Matt in your name, and that prayer is going to be answered. Not because of anything I've done, but all because of the wonderful work of Jesus.

One of I, I mean, I don't know how you cannot love a little baby, all right? That's not your baby. Okay. Right? Because you don't have to deal with the up all night. But when you see like the little babies here, I'm like. Man, they're, they're smiling. I know. At home they're probably the worst. Okay. But here, there's joy and there's delight, and so they smile.

It would, I've never had a baby, even our two Colton Mary, I've never had a baby that's been snuggled up in mama's arms or daddy's arms and looked up and said, look how close I'm keeping myself to mama. For one, they can't talk. Right. That'd be, we'd be like, whoa. Okay, hold on. Let's set that aside. We gotta deal with this weird thing that just happened.

You're a few months old, but who is responsible for holding that baby? Close The parent. There's nothing the baby does that keeps them away from this. It is God's responsibility to keep us. And he's not going to fail at it. Oh, amen. He is going to firmly hold on to his people. What can separate us from the love of God?

Nothing. Romans eight says, not even death can take us away from God. So if Jesus is praying this. And Jesus continues to pray this, and he knows that this is true. Here's what John Piper says, the only reason you remain a Christian is 'cause Jesus is praying for you that your faith would not fail. That our ability to remain a Christian is not on anything that we do.

It's all because of the incredible persevering or preserving work of Jesus that nothing can take us away from the Father. And so why does this matter for us today that we pray with confidence knowing we belong to our father in heaven. This is Hebrews chapter four, approaching the throne room of God with confidence because we know that there's grace and mercy there that the most important thing in my life has been settled.

I don't know what the future holds here on this earth, but I know that my future after this life is settled because of Jesus. And so with Joy, I can approach the



hardest things in life because the most important thing has been settled for me. Amen. And that's why we sing Psalm like it is well with my soul.

'cause my sins were nailed to the cross. And I don't bear them anymore. I don't, it doesn't mean I don't, I'm not dealing with it. But the, the payment of sin has been born by Jesus. It's been settled, not because I'm a good Christian, or I can preach or I can sing and I attend church and I read my Bible.

It's not because of any of that, but 'cause the father keeps me close. So we are preserved in the name of the father.

Which this truth doesn't just start here in John 17. Let me read a familiar passage of scripture. It won't be on this tv. You'll have to listen to it. The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want or I don't need anything else. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me besides still waters. He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness, which is all good, right? All of it good. But here's how verse three closes out for his namesake. He does this to display. He does it founded on his holy character. So he preserves us in his nature, which is good. Because we live in a very unsettled world, do we not very unsettled.

So Jesus continues this prayer with the second petition for his disciples. I believe it's for us too, is that we are protected from the evil.

Jesus is gonna soon be the part in verses 14 through 16. He says, I have given them your word. And the world has hated them because they're not of the world. Just as I'm not of the world, I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. This is a prayer in the midst of persecution that they're about to face.

I think even we will pray, Lord, come quickly, which I think is a great prayer. Like, Lord, if you came back tonight, I would not be upset. Right. Amen. I would, I would be perfectly okay with that. Right? But we also have to understand, we can't just pray that prayer. 'cause we don't want to avoid, we just 'cause.

We just wanna avoid hard things. Life is filled with hard things. It's filled with persecution. Jesus said, if you follow me, you will be persecuted. It's going to happen. What we should be praying is, Lord, as we wait for your coming, protect us from the evil one. Get this stuff away from me. God, it, it just bothers.

It's, it's annoying me. It's not what Jesus prays for His disciples. And he could have Father, get them out of here. Protect them, but protect them from the evil one.



Here's why. You will be hated by the world. You will be hated. Hate's a strong word, and none of us like that word hate, right. That you'll be hate.

If you are a follower of Jesus, you will be hated,

but you are also loved by your Father in heaven. So yes, the world hates you, but in return you're loved by the Father. I think that's a pretty good exchange there if you ask me. Amen.

But some of you would rather be loved by the world than God. As I watch your lives, that you are so concerned that we are so concerned by being accepted by the world, that we take our eyes off of the love of the Father. This is a Judas mentality. Is it not? That you'd rather be loved and accepted by the world than be accepted by the father, and you've even modeled this for your children.

This has really nothing to do with the sermon here, but this is a pastoral point of application. That if you are more concerned about how the world thinks of you than you are in a very serious position. 'cause this is not the mindset of those who follow Jesus is, yes, I will be hated, and yes, I'm gonna proclaim the gospel.

I'm gonna stand in the face of culture, and I'm not gonna be worried about proclaiming truth because I know that even though the hate of the world is strong, the love of the father towards me is stronger. And that's where we live in confidence that we are protected from the evil one. Meaning that when we close our eyes in death and we wake up, we are protected from all the penalty of sin because of Jesus.

Amen. It doesn't mean that we're not gonna be martyred for our faith or faith persecution. It means that that's just a part. Of living here in the world, but what the evil one longs to do, he can't do because we are protected by the father.

How can we say that God protects us when Christians are dying?

I mean, I'm watching videos. I'm heartbroken by what's taking place. Here's what Jesus says in Matthew 10 28, and do not fear those who kill the body. But cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body and hell, because I know that my life is protected by the father because of Jesus.

That I can say what I heard one pastor long ago say as he was sharing the gospel somewhere here in the south, he walked up on a door and knocked on it, and someone put a gun right to his face. He said, if you share Jesus with me, I'll shoot you right here. And there's a response with you can't threaten me with heaven.



And I thought that was pretty fitting that he knows even if I'm gonna obediently proclaim the gospel and you do shoot me, and in my life, can I tell you I'm in the presence of Jesus. That's what it means to be protected by the evil one. Doesn't mean that we're safe from trouble and hardship, but we're safe from an eternal internal judgment in hell.

And so why does this matter today? We pray to rid ourselves of the world, that we will remain in Christ, that we will stand firm on truth. That anything that is unholy or does not align with the character of God, we rid ourselves of it. So Pastor Matt, how do I remain? And I wanna just grow in him. I wanna love him.

I wanna be more like him. How do I remain here? Two things. One, you remain because of Jesus. You're kept because of Jesus. Two, he's also sanctifying you and we are sanctified in the truth of God's word. Words. Sanctified is set apart to make holy is to look different. They're in the world. They're not of the world.

That's not exactly what Jesus says, but that's where we get that language from. We're in it, but not of it. Meaning that we are here, living here in a dark world, but we are not of the world because we are belonging to God. And in this he is making us more and more like him. Jesus is doing a work in us while we are in the world.

How? Through the truth of God's word, Charles Spurgeon says, the more truth you believe, the more sanctified you will be. So the operation of truth upon the mind is to separate a man from the world. To the service of God. And Jesus does this by showing us that the truth we stand our lives on is the truth of God's word.

That Jesus is from God and that God loves us and that we are kept in him, and that we are protected by him. We stand there, but Jesus doesn't say, Hey, this is what you need to do. At the end of this passage in verse 18 and 19, it shows us that Jesus actually models what this looks like for us. That we're not just trying to figure out, Hey, what does this, what does this sanctified life look like?

What does it look like? Jesus says at the end of this prayer, and as you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world, and for their sake, I consecrate myself that they also may be sanctified in truth. So how do we live a sanctified life? We look to Jesus 'cause the perfect Jesus is perfecting us.

I don't know about you, but I still fight my own sinful flesh at times. Every day we are at war. Why? Why have we been memorizing Ephesians six? 'cause we are at war with our hearts, with our own flesh, that we are trying to be holy. Because God is holy and it is a long-term process. You'll not be sanctified overnight.



In fact, you'll not be fully sanctified on this earth. 'cause Philippians one, six tells us that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion. That this is a work of Jesus. That's why I look out and I say, man, I, I remember where this person was three years ago, and look how God has grown them.

And while we have to look at one another and just say they don't have their act together. You remember what they did here? I mean, are we not being sanctified by the Lord and how easy we hold on to someone's past actions, not thinking that God can grow them from that? 'cause He's grown us. Like I'm so thankful I'm not the same person I was three years ago.

I'm not the same person I was 10 years ago. If I was the same person that I was when we planted this church, I don't know if I would still be pastoring here. But this is the work of Jesus in our lives. He is sanctifying us. What I love about it is that all three of these petitions to keep us, to protect us from the evil one and to sanctify us are firm solid promises made by Jesus that I know he will keep me, that I know he will protect me, and I know he will sanctify me.

So we cling to those promises today and we pray that we will continue to grow in the Holy character of God. Friday night we had our groups giving at our house. So my life group came over to our house and we had a great time, and they were introduced to my wonderful, loving cat. Hank. Hank is my cat. Um, we a few years ago, um, what we've kind of done is every person, all four of us have a cat.

Right now we have a fifth cat, and that fifth cat is causing problems. All right? But we were working through that. But a few years ago, we were down a cat. I didn't have a cat, so the kids for my birthday wanted to go get a cat for me, which I was fine. And so we went to one place. They didn't have a cat, so we stopped in this cat's.

Center, I don't know. It was a pet center. Walked in and there was this black cat who they said, apparently if you met Hank, he's only like three years old. Okay. He is a chunky monkey. Alright? And so we get in there and his name was Wilbur, that is his birth name, Wilbur. And so I sit down and it's this concrete room that he's been living in for a year.

Aw. And so I sit down and I'm like, oh, that's sad, but you know, it's just, I don't know if this is my cat, right? We had to fill it out a little bit and Hank jumps up in my lap and he puts his paws around my neck. I said, this is our cat. We're going home with him. All right? That's how it works. And so, no how Now Hank lives with us and he.



I love Hank. All right. I'm the only one in my family I think that loves Hank because he's my cat. Alright? And so he wants to be inside with his family. He meows and he cries and he knows he wanted to eat Taco pasta the other night, right? And then anybody that comes over, it's like he's their family too, right?

These are just more people to love and he stays close. He clings to us and I just think this is the picture of who we are in Jesus.

That Jesus saw us locked up in prison Walls, brought us in, gave us a new name, and welcomed us into his family, and gave us all the benefits of belonging to the Father. And we are kept in his name. We are protected in his name and we are being sanctified in his name. Not because of anything we've done, but because of the glorious grace of Jesus and his continual prayer for us.

So as we leave here, let's cling to these incredible truths that's found in this prayer of Jesus.

