



**The DAILY JESUS NEWS #298**  
**Thursday... Day of Instruction and Arrest:**  
**Jesus Offers His “High Priestly Prayers”**

**Jesus Prays For His Disciples’ Protection and Sanctification**  
**JN 17.6-19**

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*6 “I have revealed your name--you--to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have permanently kept your word. 7 Now they come to fully know that everything you have permanently given to me comes from you. 8 For I permanently gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.*

*9 “I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have permanently given me, for they are yours. 10 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And I have been permanently glorified through them.*

*11 “I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you permanently gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. 12 While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction, so that Scripture would be fulfilled.*

*13 “I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them permanently.14 I have permanently given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world.*

*15 “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.*

*17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. 18 Just as you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. 19 I am sanctifying myself on their behalf, that they too may be sanctified by the truth.*

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	A Vineyard On the Road to the Mount Olivet

Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	D. Thursday: Day of Instruction and Arrest
	Jesus Offers His High Priestly Prayers
Title	Jesus Prays for His Disciples' Protection and Sanctification

In today's reading Jesus prayed for the protection of his disciples during the time he would be separated from them, and their future commitment to serving him. We will look now at both of these aspects of his prayer.

Jesus was concerned about what was going to happen to his disciples in the days between his death and resurrection. He had already prayed extensively for Peter's faith not to fail him during this time, and the other disciples, too. In these final hours before his arrest Jesus prayed for them again.

Jesus noted that his disciples had permanently "kept" his word, that he had given them from the Father. "Keep" or "guard" does not mean "perfectly obey." He could not describe their obedience as being full, or complete. However, they held tenaciously to their faith in the truthfulness of his word, regardless of whether they obeyed it completely or not. His word sometimes comforted them, and it also judged them when they didn't obey it.

Regardless of their subjective response to Jesus' word, the disciples clung to their conviction that it was objective truth, and binding upon them. This is what it means to "keep" Jesus' word.

Now Jesus was asking his Father to "keep/guard" his disciples in his temporary absence from them. Jesus repeated the phrase "in your name; your name" in these verses. This meant "in conformity with who you are." He was asking his Father to guard over them in a manner consistent with his own character. This insured his Father's glory would be revealed, and his disciple's needs would also be met.

When Jesus began to pray for his disciple's future commitment to serving him, he began to include all future believers in his request, including us. This was indicated by his choice of the Greek present tense in verse 21: **"I am not presently praying on behalf of these alone..."** (17.21) The need for protection in the interval between his death and resurrection was a unique, one-time need for those disciples who were already believers at the time Jesus was praying this prayer. All of his requests regarding the future included all future believers as well.

Jesus prayed for all believers to be sanctified by the truth. He said that he was sanctifying himself in our behalf, so that we too, might be sanctified in that truth. To "sanctify" is to "set apart for dedicated, exclusive use." This is the root meaning of "holiness."

Jesus was setting himself apart for dedicated service in dying as our substitute as "the Lamb of God." He was completely committed to his unique role as our sacrifice, and the one who established the new covenant in his blood. Jesus' sanctification had nothing to do with his own sin, but everything to do with atoning for ours.

Because Jesus completely committed himself to becoming our Savior from sin, we too can experience a two-fold sanctification in the truth. First, we must be set aside from sin, through the forgiveness that Jesus purchased for us. The truth of his word declares what sin is, and what Jesus did to remove it from us forever. So the first phase in our sanctification is our repentance and cleansing from sin, on the basis of the truth of God's Word.

The second phase of our sanctification through the truth is our dedication to accomplishing Jesus' will through the obedience that HE empowers, as we "abide" in him. Jesus was counting on accomplishing his mission of making disciples of all the nations through the 100% commitment of his disciples to finish the task he left with them.

World evangelism is not for wimps, or self-absorbed people. It will only happen through people who are as committed to Jesus' purposes as he was. This is what Jesus was praying for. When we consider how weak and self-centered the apostles had been to that point, it makes great sense that Jesus would pray for their transformed commitment to accomplishing his will--or their sanctification.

#### APPLICATION:

When we honestly consider our own weaknesses and self-absorption, this prayer of Jesus on our behalf for our full sanctification assumes massive importance.

We must join with Jesus, in full agreement with him regarding this prayer, and make it our own fervent, constant request as well.

"Lord, make me like you, by shining your truth into me, and living in me by the power of your Spirit. May everything that you accomplished by sanctifying yourself for me become effective in me by the power of your Spirit."

*How often do you pray for your sanctification? How much does your growth into Jesus' image mean to you? Is your commitment to obedience as strong as God has the power to give you?*

*How will you make a practice of agreeing with Jesus' prayer for your sanctification, as you make his prayer your own?*