

“That His Love Would Be in Us”  
(John 17:25-26)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

Jesus has prayed that the Father would keep us –  
That He would protect us from the evil one,  
The evil in this world,  
And the evil in our hearts –  
While we are in this world,  
Since this is where the work is  
That He’s called us to do.

He’s prayed for our unity –  
That the Father would subdue  
The particular sin of division in our hearts –  
So that we would present to the world a united front –  
The witness of a people who love the Lord  
And who show it by their love for one another.

And He prayed for our glorification:  
That His Father might bring us to heaven  
Where we might be blessed for all eternity  
As we gaze upon the glory of God  
In the face of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## B. Preview.

Tonight, we come to the conclusion of Jesus' prayer.

What He offers here isn't another request,

But a summary of what He's already said.

He uses this as an argument

As to why the Father should hear

And grant His earlier requests

To protect us and bring us to heaven.

He offers three reasons:

1. First, because Jesus came into the world that we might know the Father.
2. Second, because we now know the Father, we have become those who will continue His work in the world.
3. And third, because through knowing the Father, we now have His love in us – which amounts to the same thing as Jesus dwelling in us.

## II. Sermon.

- A. The Father should protect us because Jesus came into the world that we might know Him.

Jesus says in verse 25, *“O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.”*

Jesus first points out the character of the world

Into which the Father sent Him:

They are a people who don't know the Father,

Who are in the darkness of ignorance.

It's not that they're ignorant of His existence –

God has shown everyone that He is,  
And what He's like through the light of nature –  
Nor does Jesus mean  
That they're completely ignorant  
Of what He requires from them –  
They know what He wants  
Through the light of conscience.

What He means is  
That in spite of these things,  
Their hearts are still in the darkness of sin –  
They still hate God,  
They still don't want to submit to Him,  
And they do everything they can  
To put what they do know of Him and what He wants  
Out of their minds  
So that they can live the way they want.

Paul writes in Romans 1:21, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Just look at the news  
And compare what the people of this world are like  
To what God tells us they should be in His Word,  
And you'll see what Jesus means.

It was into this world  
That the Father sent His Son –  
The One who does know Him:  
Who not only knows far more intimately  
What He is like  
And what delights Him –  
But who loved Him  
With all His heart,  
And sought to please Him  
With all His life.

He sent Him into this world  
So that others might come to know Him –  
So that they might have eternal life:

We saw back in verses 1-2, “Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, ‘Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, *even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.*”

And His errand was successful –  
There were those who came to know Him,  
Who were saved by His grace –  
If you love Him this evening,  
You’re one of them.  
And so Jesus prays the Father would keep you

Because you are one of those He was sent to save.

- B. Secondly, Jesus prays the Father would keep us because, now that we know Him, we will continue His work in the world.

Again, He prays in verse 25, “O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; *and these have known that You sent Me.*”

The majority of the world rejected Him,  
 But we are among the few who believed,  
 Who know Jesus was sent from the Father,  
 And who through Jesus are saved.

As we saw earlier, we are also those

Jesus is sending to the world:

The same world that hated Him.

He says in verse 18, “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.”

Now that we bear His image

And have been given the same message

So that they might come to know Him,

We will also be hated by the world.

Jesus points this out to the Father –

Mainly for our benefit,

Since the Father already knew –

To argue that we will need His grace –

His protection –

As we seek to be His lights in this dark world.

We should note that this prayer

Was fulfilled in the lives of the disciples:

Not at first.

They did fall away when Jesus was arrested;

But after the coming of the Spirit,

They believed the Father would do as Jesus asked;

They weren't ashamed to own Him before others

When He had not been ashamed

To own them before the Father;

They went out and told others

What Jesus had done to save them

If they will only believe.

Matthew Henry points out

That when we freely acknowledge God

In the face of a world that hates Him

At our own personal risk,

This pleases Him,

And He will crown those that do so

With a glory that will distinguish them from others.

Are you willing to own Him publicly?

If so, He will reward you as well.

Jesus has sent us to continue this work –

Which is why He prays the Father would protect us.

C. Finally, Jesus prays the Father would keep us because, through knowing the Father, we now have His love in us – which means Jesus lives in us by His Spirit.

He says in verse 26, “And I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

1. Jesus said He had made *the Father’s name* know to them –

By which He means He made *the Father* known to them.

God’s name is a revelation of God.

The psalmist writes in Psalm 148:13, “Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.”

God’s “name” here represents God Himself.

*He is to be praised.*

*He alone is exalted.*

That’s why it’s important

That we use His name reverently:

When we misuse His name,

We are actually abusing Him.

Jesus spent all the time He did with His disciples –

He preached what He did,

And did His miracles,

All for this reason:

That He might reveal the Father,

That they might know Him.

This is why Jesus came into the world.

John writes in John 1:18, “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, *He has explained Him.*”

Jesus prayed earlier in verse 6, “*I have manifested [i.e., revealed] Your name to the men whom You gave Me out of the world; they were Yours and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.*”

Jesus must do this before we or anyone can believe in Him –

He must reveal the Father to us.

He’s the only One who can reveal the Father –

Because He is the image of the invisible God,

The exact representation of His nature –

And this is what Jesus does

Before He brings anyone into a relationship with the Father.

And this isn’t a one-time thing:

It’s something that He continues to do

Once He has started.

Jesus says in verse 26, “And I have made Your name known to them, *and will make it known.*”

He intended to reveal more to the disciples about the Father:

His death and resurrection was a revelation of the Father’s justice.

After He died and was raised,  
He appeared to them over a period of forty days  
And continued to teach them about the Father.  
On the Day of Pentecost,  
He poured out of His Spirit  
To lead them into a deeper truth about the Father.  
And when He took them up into heaven  
They continued to learn still more.

Jesus has also revealed His Father to us  
Through His person,  
Through His work,  
So that we might also come into a relationship  
With the Father through Him.

And He will reveal even more to us about Him.  
Not only will He use virtually everything  
That happens to us in this world  
To teach us more  
About His Father's great grace, love, mercy and holiness;  
But once we arrive in heaven  
We'll continue to learn more about Him  
As we gaze at His glory  
For the rest of eternity,

And as we do,  
 Our joy and happiness  
 Will continue to increase.

## 2. Jesus revealed His Father

That we might be brought into a relationship  
 With the Father, through Him –  
 That we might be loved by Him.

But He goes on to say it was also that His love might be in us:  
 The same love He has for His Son.

He says in verse 26, “And I have made Your name known to them, and will  
 make it known, *so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them,  
 and I in them.*”

Jesus didn’t come into the world  
 To reveal His Father to us,  
 Merely to give us something to talk about,  
 Or to argue with other believers.

He came to secure our ultimate happiness –  
 Not only that we might be loved by Him and His Father,  
 But that Their love –  
 The Spirit of love with which the Father anointed Him  
 Might actually be in us –  
 That we might become partakers of the divine nature;

That His love might be shed abroad in our hearts;

That He might be in us a principle of holiness,

That our souls might be drawn out to Him,

So that we will love and follow Him.

Jesus revealed the Father to us

That we might have the love of the Spirit in our hearts.

And when we see this love,

We know not only that *the Spirit* is in our souls

But that *Jesus Himself* is by His Spirit.

He says, “so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, *and I in them*” (v. 26).

When the Spirit takes us residence in our hearts,

It shows that we are in union with Christ –

That we are in Him,

But also that He is in us:

Paul writes in Colossians 1:27, “To whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Cf. Gal. 2:20).

Now if we are in Christ,

And He is in us,

And if the Spirit of love dwells in our souls,

So that we now seek to honor the Father,

By loving, trusting and submitting to Him,

Why wouldn't the Father protect us  
As we go out to do His work in the world?  
He will –  
And Jesus knows He will,  
Which is why He prays in verse 25, "O righteous Father."  
He knows the Father is righteous,  
That He will always do what is right –  
He will do what Jesus asks  
Because He made Him a promise  
When He sent Jesus into the world  
To purchase this blessing for us.  
  
That's why, if you have trusted Jesus –  
If you love Him and are following Him –  
The Father will protect you:  
You will never perish,  
But live forever in His presence  
Because Jesus prays for you. Amen.

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