



May 16, 2021 John 17:6-19 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

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ENTERING THE SCENE:

Just before Jesus goes out to be arrested, he goes deep into prayer. He prays for the disciples and for each of us, that we may all know God like he knows God. He trusts that eternal life is the realization that we are all God's beloveds. He sinks into prayer, as one who is leading worship for those present. Imagine yourself sitting around the table that night. How might you feel as you heard Jesus praying for you? Could this help you start to appreciate how the disciples must have felt as they tried to comprehend what was going on? Jesus knew that all those given him were God's. This includes us. What are you feeling as you sink into this?

Jn. 17:6-19

6 "I have made your **name** known to those whom

you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; "for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. 12 while I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. 13 but now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. 14 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 and for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: Jesus teaches that all of us will be protected in his name. What does that mean to you?

PRAYER: Holy God, I come to you in prayer as one of those whom your son Jesus prayed for. I count on the protection he promised as I live in the world while trying to remember that I am not of the world. It gives me strength and courage to press on as I rely on that promise and look forward to whatever your will is for me today. Amen.