

# The Road to Redemption

## [A Saviors Prayer- John 17:6-19]

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## Introduction

It is a wonderful moment when you have the chance to see your favorite sports star perform on the big stage. To see their God given talent and to appreciate the years of dedication and hard work. Still it is amazing to sit behind an artist, to listen to a skilled musician or watch a musical. The talent and ability is captivating.

Yet, it is quite another to talk to this person face to face. You have heard stories of disappointment and joy of meeting a hero and finding that their personality and character exceeded expectations.

I remember living in Baton Rouge and standing in line at Subway. This man walked in behind me and I quickly recognized the maroon MSU jogging pants. Of course, my interest was piqued and I recognized what I thought was a man that looked like Will Clark. This was a former MLB player who had over 2000+ hits and 284 homeruns. More importantly Will is an iconic hero at MSU. I remember carrying on a normal conversation in the Subway line as we ordered sandwiches. It's one thing to watch your favorite star from a distance, it's quite another to see them up close and personal.

And yet we find another layer to a person. To hear someone pray, is more than hearing the eloquence of their words, the passion of their voice, and the righteousness of their heart. To hear someone pray reveals their inner most struggles, desires, and gives a unique glimpse into their heart and soul. Today, we look at a passage of text in which Jesus Christ pauses, reflects, and prays to His father. **When Jesus prays, we should listen.** Listen to the words, hear the heart of the Savior, a heart for you and for those who need Him most!

Given (8) Kept (5) World (14) Word (6)

## Today we hear the Savior's Prayer

### Read [ John 17:6-10]

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#### You are given (17:6-10)

Jesus, preparing for the most agonizing moments of His life, in the culmination of his mission on earth bends his knee, bows his head, and pours forth his heart to the Father.

We see in this prayer that God the father **gave** Jesus the men (disciples) in his care. Why given? And why would God give these men to Jesus? Could he not have walked the road to the cross alone? Certainly, it would have been easier. Yet Jesus reveals something powerful: **the disciples have worth.**

#### You have eternal value and worth.

It's important to remember that Jesus is going to pray that the world hated him! It is important to remember that Jesus acknowledges that the world hated the disciples. It is important to remember that those who choose to follow Christ, will be diametrically opposed to the ways of the world and will be hated.

And in the midst of the storm God reminds: you have value. You see, God doesn't make trash and doesn't give bad gifts. And if the adage is correct and it's the thought that counts. How marvelous are God's thoughts towards you. Made in his image to reflect his glory and created to be in relationship with the Lord.

**We all have people in our lives that give bad gifts. (wedding registry).** Some think they are a bad gift or have been dealt a bad hand. But know today that you have worth in Christ Jesus. You are given!

God wants you to find your worth in Him. To remember that you are created in His image. If you are created in the image of God, why are you trying to conform to the image of something or someone else?

It is Christ who says: you are not merely a fisherman but you will now fish for men.

We strive to look, talk, do as others to be loved, to be accepted and find our worth. Remember: if you are seeking the approval of man, you will never find full joy, fulfillment, or worth. Only Christ imparts and reflects the heavenly value, and love of the father. **To be given by the Lord means that you are His (17:6)**

**You are given to Christ to see the standard.**

The disciples were given to Christ to be taught by the master teacher. They called him rabbi and “good teacher.” But Christ is not merely a model citizen he is so much more. **Luke 18:19** “Why do you call Me **good?**” Jesus asked him. “No one is good but One—God. **20** You know the commandments:

It is Christ who modeled not only do not murder but do not hate (Mt 5:22) or fool. It is Christ who says if you are worshipping at the alter and remember someone has something against you leave your gift and go find reconciliation (Mt 5:24). It was Christ who said if someone compels you to go a mile walk two.

It is Christ who God made him who had **no sin** to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). It is Christ who the Lord laid upon the iniquity of us all.

Christ is more than just a teacher. **To be given to Jesus means that you are now standing beside the standard! This a glorious truth and a terrifying nightmare.**

To be in the presence of Christ now means that I see the standard and see the perfect Savior. To be given to the Savior now means that I am **held to account** by the standard. And to see the standard we are judged by the standard who is Jesus.

**17** For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

You see before Christ we had an excuse in the law. No man could live up! So after each transgression you must offer sacrifice in a never ending cycle. But Christ, fulfilled the law, lived a sinless life and showed us that He is God.

**Who is your standard this morning? What has become your standard? Are you ok with just getting by?**

**The Lord God- the one Who is Holy is the ultimate giver. In Christ God did not only give us the standard but gives us salvation.**

To see Christ, to be given to Christ, means that we not only see the perfect Savior but now have a perfect sacrifice.

**You are given to Christ that you might believe. The disciples were given that they might **know (17:7, 8)** and **believe (17:8)**.**

Today do you believe?

God freely offers and gives us salvation if we believe in Jesus Christ. We are given to Christ because He alone has the power to offer us salvation.

Acts 4:<sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Eph. 2:4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Gifts must be received. God gave you to His one and only Son to find your worth, to see the perfect Savior, to find salvation. Have you received his grace freely given? Are you trusting and relying in His grace daily?

## **You are Sent (17:11-19)**

Given to Christ now means for the disciples a life of radical change. They are now longer of the world, but are living in the world, and are ultimately sent into the world.

And this is still the current dichotomy for those who profess and follow Christ as a disciple. **If given to Christ and now finding salvation through Christ gives you **value** and worth, living in the power of Christ changes your **values**, beliefs, and desires.**

**To put faith in Jesus – means that He has called you Out of the World (**Values**)**

So what does it mean to be out of the world. Simply Christ has made you new, transformed your mind, given you a bitter taste for your sin, and replaced your old values for new.

To have faith in Christ means a radical break from the world and the life you were once living. You can't follow Christ and keep your old life. (17:9)

The Greek order makes the contrast very sharp: not for the world pray, but for those you are given me. The antithesis between the disciples and the world is extremely sharp.(Carson).

**Even now how sharp must our break be from our former life.**

John 9:20 “We know this is our son and that he was born blind,” his parents answered. 21 “But we don't know how he now sees, and we don't know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he's of age. He will speak for himself.”

**A life in Christ is a life marked by Christ not by culture, current, or the community. If you don't want to be different, if you don't want to be changed, you don't want Jesus.**

**So what does it mean to be out of the world?**

**World- a separation of values not geography (17:6, 9, 11-16, 18)**

First, it does not **mean be weird**. Just because you listen to different music, wear different shirts, and occasionally boycott doesn't mean you are living for Christ.

Doesn't call us to be weird but to take up your cross daily and follow him. We should not ask us to exchange “church culture” for our previous culture. Rather we must be “born again, take up your cross, live as Christ.”

**It means that we value righteousness. In Christ I value sacrifice more than wealth. That I look out to the interest of others before myself.**

To continue to live as the world (17:16) is not only to misunderstand the Lord Jesus Christ, it is to live counter to his prayer, sacrifice, and will for your life.

**There is no such thing as a worldly Christian.**

## Out of the world but into it (7:18). (Missional)

A life in Christ is a life that is called to be radically different. We are not called to sit comfortably in our churches waiting for others to do the work for us. **Instead we are called to be heavenly fire fighters.** Running into the burning building to rescue those who are in danger of the fires of destruction.

Believers, then, are neither to **withdraw** from the world nor to become **indistinguishable** from it, but rather, as ones consecrated by the truth and separated from evil, they are to **witness** to God's Son, aided by the Spirit (ECNT).

**How is your witness?** When was the last time you intentionally shared the hope with you? It gave me great joy to hear one of our faith family share their faith in a local store with the reply: I am a vegetarian.

**Those who receive God's grace are sent to those who need it.**

Who is your one? Who are you inviting to the kingdom? 8/10 will go to worship if invited by a friend.

We are not allowed to retreat. We are called and sent into battle. If you are retreating today you are living counter to the prayer of Christ over his disciples.

How will you live missionally today?

**To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world. --Barth**

## You are Kept (17:6, 12, 15)

The promise today is that if you are given to Christ, then you are kept secure by his righteous right hand.

**What God gives he also keeps safe.**

**God doesn't give 5 yr/60,000 warrantees. The Lord is not waiting for you to mess up or break down so he can dismiss you, trade you in and move on.**

Why do we need to be kept safe by Christ? Remember, to seek the **cross of Christ will naturally bring hatred** from the world. To live different brings persecution, strife, and difficulty.

Maybe we are not hated because people can't see a difference.

## **To seek Christ leads to heavenly divine protection (.**

Such preservation does not involve removal from the world and its hatred but protection from succumbing to the **designs** of the evil one (Keener).

Remember the disciples: Peter (crucified), Andrew (crucified), Thomas (pierced by spears), Philip (arrested and cruelly killed), Matthew (stabbed in Ethiopia), Bartholomew (martyred), James (clubbed to death), Simon (killed after refusing sacrifice to the son god), Matthias (burned to death), John (natural death after exile).

*The safest place eternally is in the will of God. Often the most dangerous place temporarily is in the will of God.*

This is why Jim Elliot (martyred for his faith) can say “He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

Are you willing to sacrifice the comfort of the world today for the glory of Jesus Christ? Where is he calling you to go? To the nations? To your family? Oh that we collectively today would deny our temporary comforts for the sake of Jesus Christ!

We cannot seek and serve Christ and desire the love of the world.

## **Christ will keep you eternally secure (17:12)**

Those give to Christ will be kept eternally . If you have done nothing to earn your salvation (by grace you have been saved) then you can not un-merit your salvation.

**1Pet. 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade

away, reserved in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Knowing you are kept secure by your Father frees you up to no longer live a life of fear. To no longer serve Christ as a servant (who does not know his master's business) but a friend.

**Live free, life as one who is kept by the father, through his power.**

## My Response

Back in 1830 George Wilson was convicted of robbing the U.S. Mail and was sentenced to be hanged. President Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson, but he refused to accept it.

*Chief Justice John Marshall wrote, "A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws.... (But) delivery is not completed without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered, and...we have no power in a court to force it on him."*

For some, the pardon comes too late. For others, the pardon is not accepted.

**In Christ you have been given value- standard- salvation**

**Are living missionally, sacrificially, and intentionally?**

**Are you living with security knowing those who Christ keeps will never be lost?**

**Head-Heart-Hands**

**Two ways to respond: In this service or by card.**



# Notes

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**John 17:6** “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Jesus revealed to the disciples God’s name partly meaning his honor but very probably also implying his character and identity (Keener).

Acting by God’s name could represent dependence on God (1QM 11.3). when God acted in history, he often did so for the sanctifying of his name, as he would do also at the final day (Keener).

**7** Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. **8** For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

All things- once again expresses his dependence on the Father (ECNT).

**John 17:9** “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

If he does not pray for the world, it is not because he had no concern for the world; he is, indeed, the Savior of the world. But the salvation of the world depends on the witness of those whom the Father has given him ‘out of the world,’ and it is they who need his intercession at this junction (Bruce).

The world, then, is included in Jesus prayer to the extent that he desires for it to be won over by believers (ECNT).

The Greek order makes the contrast very sharp: not for the world pray, but for those you are given me. The antithesis between the disciples and the world is extremely sharp but it should not be made absolute (Carson).

The Father loves the world so much that he sends his son.

The distinction is not merely utilitarian or missiological but theological: they are yours.

There is a peculiar relationship of love, intimacy, disclosure, obedience, faith, dependence, joy, peace, eschatological blessing and fruitfulness that binds the disciples together and with the Godhead (Carson).

The world can be prayed for only to the end that some who now belong to it might abandon it and join with others who have been chosen out of the world (Carson).

**10** And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. **11** Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*.

Separation from the world naturally produces internal community cohesion, but here the idea seems to be that the common unity with the Father and the Son, apart from the world's quite contrary interests, yields unity among Jesus' followers (Keener).

### **Name**

The name of God in the OT denotes not only his character but also his power (Bruce).

In fact, "the unity [prayed for] is a unity already given: Jesus does not pray that they may become one, but that they may continually be one (ECNT).

**12** While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Jesus 'kept' the disciples from the world by God's name (Keener).

The reference to fulfillment of Scripture also assures the reader that the defection of Judas is foreseen by Scripture, and therefore no evidence of failure on Jesus' part (Carson).

**13** But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

This joy, moreover, is to be known in the midst of the world's hostility (ECNT).

**14** 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.

## **Word**

The singular ‘word’ is the sum-total of all the words of verse 8 (Bruce).

Because they, like Jesus, are not from the world, the disciples share with Jesus in being objects of the world’s hatred. (Keener)

They reflect the character of Jesus rather than that of the world and hence are in conflict with the world. This is a separation of values not geography (Keener).

**15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

## **Keep**

Such preservation does not involve removal from the world and its hatred but protection from succumbing to the designs of the evil one (Keener).

Believers, then, are neither to withdraw from the world nor to become indistinguishable from it, but rather, as ones consecrated by the truth and separated from evil, they are to witness to God’s Son, aided by the Spirit (ECNT).

## **Evil One**

The devil is almost certainly what is meant. The death/exaltation of the Master spells the principal defeat of the ruler of this world, but that does not rob him of all power to inflict terrible damage on the Lord’s followers. (Carson).

The Christians task then is not to be withdrawn from the world, nor to be confused by the world, but to remain in the world, maintaining witness to the truth by the help of the PAraclete, and absorbing all the malice that the world can muster, finally protected by the Father himself, in response to the prayer of Jesus (Carson).

**16** They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. **17** Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

The very message which they are to proclaim in his name will exercise its sanctifying effect on them: that message is the continuation of his message, just as their mission in the world is the extension of his mission (Bruce).

Jesus second petition is from their consecration for service. Critically, such service is ultimately grounded in divine revelation and predicated on an accurate understanding of and response to such revelation (ECNT).

**18** As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. **19** And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Personal holiness is not an end in itself but a means to an end: reaching the lost world for Christ. Believers consecration serves the purpose of preparing them for their God-given mission in the world. They are not to be inwardly focused, cultivating merely intracommunitarian love and unity, but rather to reach out together to a lost and needy world (ECNT).

Here is the Johannine counterpart to the Gethsemane prayer (Bruce).

It is not what Jesus' executioners did to him, but what he did himself in his self-offering, that makes his death a prevailing sacrifice 'for the life of the world' (Bruce).

Given (8) Kept (5) World (14) Word (6)

### Given

God the Father gave Jesus the Son the disciples

God have Christ His power for all to see and know that He is God

Christ gave the word – given by God the father.

A Father gives the bride away to the groom. The Father gave you to Christ. The church is the bride of Christ.

Just as God presented the church to Christ. Now, Christ presents us holy and blameless ( Col. 1:22)

How much preparation goes into a wedding. In the same way we are not accidentally presented to the Son. We do not fall into salvation by accident. We are given. Dead in our trespasses but now made alive in Jesus Christ.

## **Kept**

Those given to Christ keep His word

Keep as the apple of your eye. To love the word is to love Christ.

Those given to Christ are kept by His name

God keeps his promises and God keeps his kids. (1 Peter 1:5)

Those given to Christ are kept from the evil one

## **World**

We are given to Christ out of the world

Jesus does not pray for the world

Jesus is still in the world physically

The World hates—why are we trying to make the world like us?

We are sent into the world

We can react, we can retreat, we can (share, seclude, save)

## **Word**

Keep his word

Given by Christ

Word//World

Sanctified by His word

**John 17:6** “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have **given** Me out of the world. They were Yours, You **gave** them to Me, and they have kept Your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things which You have **given** Me are from You. <sup>8</sup> For I have **given** to them the words which You have **given** Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

**John 17:9** “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have **given** Me, for they are Yours.

**John 17:11** Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have **given** Me, that they may be one as *We are*. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You **gave** Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**John 17:14** 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.

Keep

**John 17:6** “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have **kept** Your word.

**John 17:11** Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep** through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as *We are*. <sup>12</sup> While I was with them in the world, I **kept** them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have **kept**; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

**John 17:15** I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should **keep** them from the evil one.

Given

I am given to Christ to see my imperfections  
Christ is the judge  
To know there is a standard  
To know we are judged in ourselves  
I am given to Christ to see the perfect savior  
I am given so that I might believe  
I am given to know Christ has all complete authority

I am given to Christ to be kept by him  
the safest place to be is in the will of god  
Jim Elliot Paul of tarsus, Jesus of Nazareth  
kept by Christ to forsake myself  
those kept by Christ can never be lost  
Eli at the zoo

In world geography  
we should not long for heaven if God has put us here

Not of the world- values

Into the world- missional

## Illustrations

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To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.

**Author:** Karl Barth

# Application

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They reflect the character of Jesus rather than that of the world and hence are in conflict with the world. This is a separation of values not geography (Keener).