**PRAYER FOR HIS PRESENT FOLLOWERS**

John 17:6-12

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**INTRODUCTION**

Last week, we saw that Jesus began His High Priestly Prayer by praying for Himself, with the intent being that He might glorify the Heavenly Father in His death as He has done in His life and ministry. Today, we will see that He prayed next for His present followers since He would be leaving them. He was mindful of their need for God’s continued protection for them in a hostile world. Let us see what He has to say and what we can learn from this part of His prayer.

1. **WHAT JESUS PRAYED *ABOUT* HIS FOLLOWERS (vv. 6-8)**
2. He had revealed the **Father** to His followers.
3. He acknowledged they were a **gift** from God given to Him.
4. He boldly proclaimed they had faithfully kept His **word**.
5. He successfully convinced that all He **gave** them came from God.
6. He fully proved to them that He was **sent** from God with God’s words.

*This word was used five times in His prayer (vv. 8, 18, 21, 23, and 25). Obviously, He knew how important it was that His disciples understand the reality of this truth. Jesus came from God to reveal the Word of God so that mankind might come to know the depths of God’s love for them. Then, they would receive His Son and believe in Him because of what He said and did.*

1. **WHAT JESUS PRAYED *FOR* HIS FOLLOWERS (vv.9-12)**
2. This is a special prayer just for His **followers**.
3. It is a prayer for those who have accepted Him and glorify Him.
4. It is not a prayer for the world—those who have rejected Him—although He

loves and prayed for sinners elsewhere (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Luke 23:34).

1. This is a prayer for those God **gave** to Him for they belong to Him.
2. This is a prayer for these followers because He is **returning** to the Father but they must remain in a hostile world.
3. It is a prayer for God to keep & **protect** them—just as He had successfully done, except for Judas.
4. This is a prayer that they may be **one**—as the Father and Son are.

*There are times to pray for unbelievers, but there are also times to pray just for God’s people. So it is here in this portion of the High Priestly Prayer. Jesus prayed that His followers might continue to be under God’s protective care and be united as one in witnessing for Christ. This is not likely a prayer that we would be one in everything since that is highly unlikely for fallen man. However, the day will come when we shall stand as one before Him in Heaven. Praise God!*

**CONCLUSION**

Jesus’ prayer reflects His concern for the Church living in a hostile world. We face all kinds of trials and temptations. We struggle mightily against a formidable enemy, but the Almighty God is with us to care for us and to protect us. More than that, just 50 days after this prayer, God would give His Holy Spirit to empower us. We do not fight this fight alone. Praise God! In Romans 16:20 God promises we shall “soon crush Satan under your feet.” Wow! Victory is ours! We just need to live each day in the light of that victory over evil. John reminds us, “Greater is he that is in us than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

*“Greater is He that is in me, Greater is He that is in me;*

*Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.”*