

Rev. Thomas Emery
“Jesus Prays for Us” John 17:1-11
Salem Presbyterian Church
Sunday, June 1, 2014

This passage is known as Jesus' High Priestly Prayer. The Disciples are in the upper room. They have just finished the Passover meal, and Jesus is thinking about his crucifixion which will occur within the next 24 hours. He knows he is about to leave his disciples alone in the world, and he goes before God as a priest would, to intercede for them, to pray for them.

TEACHING POINTS

Teaching Point One: *Jesus prays for our protection from the evil one.*

Teaching Point Two: *Jesus prays for our sanctification.* Being holy, sanctified, and consecrated means that we belong to God and that He has set us apart for a purpose.

Teaching Point Three: *Jesus prays for our unity.* He means that we are united in confessing that Jesus is the Son of God.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

“And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.” (John 17:11 NET).

ACTION POINT

Our witness and being consecrated for God's work has as its specific content a love for one another, based in the love Jesus has revealed to us. This love becomes evidence to a godless world that Jesus was sent by the Father. In other words, only by loving one another can we hope to be an effective witness in the world.

And that is what we are called to be a witness. Jesus' prayer for us is not so that we will simply be protected until he returns, but that we also are sent just as he was sent.

We have a mission, a share in his mission, and only through the unity of love can we live out this mission. This is Jesus' prayer, and his request that we be protected, sanctified, and unified are all to the purpose of being a witness to the world. The disciples, us included, continue Jesus' mission in the world. We have been commissioned. Let us live as Jesus calls us to do!