

Security Concerns: Kept & Guarded

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:11-15

John 17:11–15, *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. 12 While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except {translated but in KJV/NASB/LSB and others} the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. 13 But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. 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. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.*

The Son of God was going back to the presence of the Father. He was leaving the disciples behind, and He knew all the forces of hell would be turned upon them to stop the advancement of the gospel. Now, Jesus prays for His disciples and the security threats they would face in the world (John 17:14).

I. What are the Lord's Security Concerns?

- A. Jesus is praying for His people and their security in the world.
 - 1. **John 17:11**, *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.*
 - 2. **John 17:12**, *While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost...*
 - 3. **John 17:15**, *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.*
- B. What is Jesus specifically praying?
 - 1. Keep them in your name – the revelation of the person and character of God. This is personal knowledge of the reality of Who God is that is only spiritually revealed and seen.
 - a) **2 Corinthians 4:4**, *In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*
 - b) **Revelation 3** makes the distinction between those who know the name of God (his true character and person) and those who don't and summarizes as such with the words, *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*
 - c) **Matthew 16:16-17**, *Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.*
 - 2. Keep them from the evil one.
 - a) Keeping – best illustrated by the care of the Shepherd for the sheep
 - b) Guarding – protecting the flock from attack, harm, and death.
 - c) **1 Peter 2:25**, *For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*
 - 3. How does Jesus "Keep us?"
 - a) Through the teaching of Scripture (starting with the Sermon on the Mount).
 - b) Through rebuking/correcting them.
 - c) Through manifested power and prayer
 - (1) **Luke 22:31–32**, *"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."*

II. The Case of Judas the Apostle

- A. Judas was selected by Jesus intentionally (**Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:13-19**)
 - 1. Jesus prayed over this decision (**Luke 6:12**)
 - 2. Jesus desired those whom He chose (**Mark 3:13**)
 - 3. Jesus included Judas with full divine knowledge (**John 6:64**, *But there are some of you who do not*

believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.)

- B. Judas functioned as an Apostle outwardly
 - 1. Participated in ministry (**Mark 6:7-13**)
 - 2. Held a trusted position as treasurer (**John 12:6, 13:29**)
- C. Judas fulfilled Scripture (**Acts 1:16-20; Psalm 41:9; Psalm 109:8**)
- D. Judas was never truly born again – regenerated – saved (**John 6:70-71, 12:4-6**)
 - 1. **John 6:70–71**, *Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil.” 71 He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.*
 - 2. **John 12:4–6**, *But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” 6 He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.*
- E. But, what about Peter? He was called Satan by Jesus (**Matthew 16:23**)
 - 1. Moments before Peter confessed, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” (**Matthew 16:16**)
 - 2. Peter’s words were the result of momentary influence rather than a lifestyle habit.
 - 3. Peter was later restored in John 21. No such record exists for Judas.
 - 4. Instead, Judas appears in Scripture to be...
 - a) Aligned with Satan in his thoughts, actions, and purposes.
 - b) Never a true believer (John 6:64 above, and **John 13:10–11**, *Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” 11 For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” John 13:18 I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’ {Jesus cites **Psalm 41:9**}*
 - c) Internally corrupt {Judas’ theft is here presented as a habitual sin} **John 12:6**, *He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it.*
 - d) Judas was influenced directly and later filled by Satan (**John 13:27**, *Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”*

III. Why did Jesus mention Judas and was Judas “lost” by Jesus? (John 17:12)

- A. Judas, by Christ’s definition, was either a member of God’s family or the world.
- B. The tension of outward appearances – why do the lost come to church?
 - 1. False assurance – “Thinking that I deserve heaven is a sure sign I have no understanding of the gospel.” -Sinclair Ferguson
 - 2. The church is my country club – “As sinful human beings, we have an instinctual, compulsive bias toward forms of religion that we ourselves can create and control.” Os Guinness
 - 3. It is a cultural observance to participate – Christmas and Easter are examples of our tendency to worship God the way we want Him to be and not as He has revealed Himself in Scripture.
 - 4. Shared values are not a necessary sign of spiritual life. (charity, compassion, community). – The church is not a humanitarian effort. It may participate and should participate in these activities, but at its root, it is a spiritual body engaged in spiritual worship of a God who is Spirit and the proclamation of the gospel.
 - 5. Community status (treasurer)
 - 6. The attraction of “spectacle.” (miracles)
 - 7. Business purposes are not spiritual purposes.
 - 8. Seeking a salve (a god) for truly genuine need.
- C. The Parable of the Weeds (Wheat and Tares) in Matthew 13:24-30 illustrates the truth of outward appearance and emptiness inwardly.
 - 1. You can belong to the innermost circle and yet be lost.
 - 2. What are the characteristics of this person
 - a) Dominated by Satan (John 6:70)
 - b) Blinded to the truth (2 Cor 4:3-4)
 - c) Dishonest in character (John 12:6)