Pray Matthew 26:39,42 John 17:11-19” *“Kept & consecrated*”
Since Jesus’ time of departure, He prayed as though He was no longer in the world. However, His followers remained in this hostile world, so he prayed for them.
1. Keep them in a good spiritual condition (vs. 11-13)
 a) “Holy Father” (only time used by Jesus) The One Who is set apart is the One Who can keep Christians set apart in a healthy way. “keep/preserve/Name”- God’s character, including His authority, power & love. This is the Name He gave to His Son whom He sent so that His followers would experience a unity reflective of the Trinity.
 b) Jesus kept & guarded His disciples while on earth. Not one of them perished in contrast to Judas, the son of destruction (his destiny) who never believed in Jesus. This fulfilled Psalm 109:6-8
 c) Jesus spoke these things before His disciples so they would have Jesus joy made full in them even though bad things would happen (15:11, 16:20, 16:20-22). Knowing the Lord keeps His own, should prompt them to keep themselves (Jude 1,21).
2. Guard them from evil (vs. 14-16)
 a) Jesus gave His followers God’s word. They believed it & were taken out of the unbelieving world into God’s family. The world’s reaction is to hate those who do not embrace its beliefs, values & practices.
 b) Jesus did not ask the Father to take His followers out of the world into heaven. The Lord uses our time in this world to make us spiritually mature & to be a witness to those in the world. He prayed that His disciples would be “kept” (v11) from evil (neuter, favored by ἐκ)/ “the evil one” (masc., favored by 13:2, 27, 14:30, 16:11). The former includes the latter.
 c) Their spiritual reality will remain like Jesus: “not out of the world.” Jesus wants His followers in the world, but not of the world.
3. Set them apart for holy purposes (vs. 17-19)
 a) Jesus asked that His followers would be sanctified/set apart in the truth. He added that God’s word (“the word which is Yours”) is truth. Regular intake of the Bible is crucial for our spiritual health & growth.
 b) Armed with His word, He can sent His own into the world to be a witness. Just as the Father sent Jesus with authority on His mission, the Son has done for His own.
 c) Jesus sanctified/set Himself apart with entire dedication to die on the cross, rise, ascend & intercede for His own. He consecrated Himself as a sacrifice & Priest so people could be sanctified in truth.
 d) The Lord wants you set apart for Him & His purposes rather than the worlds.