

Sheltered in the World

The evening before Jesus was captured and crucified, He prayed a special prayer for His disciples.

Father, I am not asking You to take My followers out of this world, but I do ask that You will keep them from the evil.¹



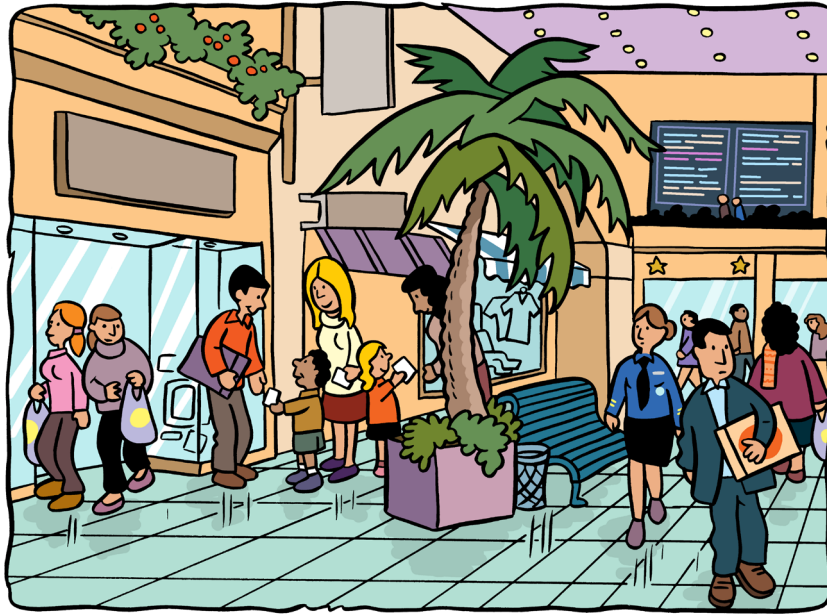
Jesus knew that His disciples needed to continue their lives on earth so that they could reach people with the truth about the great gift of God's love for them. However, Jesus also knew that the ways of the world could tempt and distract them from reflecting His love to others. In this prayer, Jesus was praying for their protection, including protection from wrong attitudes that could influence them.

¹ John 17:15, paraphrased

² John 17:16, paraphrased



Just as Jesus prayed for His disciples to be protected from any greedy, selfish influences within the world of their day, that prayer is also for us today.



Examples of godly principles:

- Jesus teaches us to love our neighbor as ourselves. (See [Matthew 22:39](#).)
We consider the needs of others and their concerns as we would our own. For example, we won't take something from our neighbor (or friend) without asking first.
- Jesus teaches us to forgive someone if they did something that has upset or hurt us. (See [Matthew 18:21-22](#).)
We won't carry resentment in our hearts toward others.
- The Bible teaches us to do things out of loving compassion and not purely for monetary gain. (See [1 Timothy 6:17-19](#).)
We won't focus on gaining riches only for ourselves to enjoy. Instead we consider gaining what will both assist our lives *and* help others.
- The Bible teaches us that God will always care for us. (See [1 Peter 5:7](#).)
We won't focus on the fear that a situation causes in our lives, but instead we put our trust in Jesus and His love for us.

Living under the principles of love that Jesus teaches us to live by protects us from being overcome by selfish, unkind ways.



Jesus continued to pray, "Cleanse them through the truth of Your Word" (John 17:17, paraphrased).



We find the guidance and strength we need to live godly lives by reading the Bible and through taking time to talk with Jesus in prayer. Spending time with Jesus helps to cleanse us of bad influences we come into contact with in our daily lives.



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