

“Jesus Prays for His Disciples!”

I. **INTRO:**

A. **The Diving Bell Spider/Water Spider/Argyroneta** (L. “silvery net”)

The water spider is an amazing little creature. It lives in rivers and streams. **How does this species survive in its watery environment?** It spins a tough basket-like web of silk, a kind of **diving bell**, and anchors it under water to plants or other objects. **Then** it captures a surface air bubble, which it pulls down and ejects into its underwater house, filling it with air. This combination of **web building** and **bubble trapping** allows the water spider to **live in an environment that normally would destroy it.**¹

1. **As Christians**, we too live in an **environment** that could destroy us.

The world’s **values, attitudes, and practices** threaten to drown us unless we are able to protect ourselves from them. **How are we to survive spiritually in this hostile worldly environment?** We must build a “bubble” of protection around ourselves by trusting God, studying the Scriptures, praying, fellowshiping with believers, communing with the Holy Spirit, and obeying His Word. These activities will insulate our *mind & heart* and help to keep us safe and secure in Christ. **As** the water spider lives **in** the water **but** is **not of** the water, so we must live **in but not be of** the world.

B. We see Jesus walking toward death’s door, “*calmly, victoriously, joyously*”.

C. We’re also reminded that **we** were the **Fathers gift** to the **Son** (see **give** 2,6,11,12)

D. **Outline:** Jesus prayed for **Himself**(1-5); for **His disciples**(6-19); for **all of His church**(20-26)

E. What did/does Jesus do for His disciples?

II. **JESUS PRAYS FOR HIS DISCIPLES! (6-19)**

A. **REVEALING TO THEM!** (6-8,14)

B. Jesus had revealed **the Father** to them, i.e. His character & resources (6,7).

C. Jesus also revealed **His Father’s Words** (8,14).

D. **PRAYING FOR THEM!** (9,10)

E. What a great promise **ALL Mine are Yours & Yours Mine.**

1. What if we really believed that, & lived as children in our Father’s house?

¹ Our Daily Bread, June 8, 1992

- F. **KEEPING THEM!** (11-16)
- G. (12) Judas was not a saved man, even though he was one of the 12.
1. He was **never washed** from his sins 13:11; He was **not chosen** by Christ 13:18.
 2. He was **not kept** (17:12). *He wore the uniform but wasn't part of the team.*
 - a) He's a frightening example of how **near** one can get to the kingdom, & still be lost.
- H. (14) **Not of the world** - John gives us the biblical definition later in his 1st epistle 1Jn 2:16
1. For all that is **in the world** - the lust of the **flesh**, the lust of the **eyes**, and the **pride** of life - is not of the Father but is **of the world**.
 - a) The 3 offsprings don't *originate* or *proceed* from the Father.
 - b) This *spirit of the world* permeates all society. All its plans, aims, & activities belong to the present passing show. (Eccl. calls it "*under the sun*")
 - c) The world has always been on a collision course with Christ, because His teachings reverses everything that the world prizes.
- I. **Don't forget the Diving Bell Spider/Water Spider.** That amazing little creature that can live in an environment that normally would destroy it. **So can you!**
- J. (15) **What's amazing is what He didn't ask for!**
1. He **didn't** ask for the Father to **take them out** of the world.
 2. He **never** intended them to **retreat back** into the saltshaker.
 3. He **never** intended their lights to be **placed under** a bushel.
 - a) True, we are not to be **of** the world, but we are to be **in** it!
 - b) Phil.2:15 strikes a good balance **that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.**
- K. Protected **from the evil one**, or Satan, who is more than *active* in the world, & bitterly opposed to the things of God.
- L. **Which part of this verse do you need to hear this morning?** (a or b)
1. **[Group A]** Some are too far **away** from this world (i.e. Can't relate to people, culture) & Some are too far **into** it **[Group B]** (can't tell any difference from them & the world). {Please here both my **a & b** before you judge what I'm saying}
 2. Those in **Group A** have **removed yourself** so far from our world you don't have any influence upon it. **Your goal is isolating/protecting/safeguarding yourself or your family, & you've forgot your mandate was not to be monastic but evangelistic.**

- a) Jesus says, “remember why I left you **in** this world”. Follow my example: *I ran from religious sounding people & ran to the filthy who needed me.*
- b) Jesus said to be **innocent**, He didn’t say to be **naive!** [May we warn our kids of what awaits them at University or out in the world, & not just hope they never see anything!] [shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves]
3. **2 ways to easily engage this world: Music & film. Why?**
- a) **Music** - is the language that articulates what people are thinking & feeling.
(1) If it’s popular, it’s because it’s connecting w/people.
- b) **Films** - seem to be the new pulpit in America. Its the new church where people go to get their story. [We get our story at church from His word]
- (1) They have **preachers** called **filmmakers** propagating their **world views**, their **philosophical systems**, their **morals & values**.
- (2) I’m **NOT** saying participate in culture just for purposes of entertainment! “You are a missionary going into a foreign world, trying to figure out a people group so you can talk to them about **Jesus**.”
- (3) I’m saying watch professionally. **What’s their sermon? What are they trying to convey? Who are they trying to convert? What is their gospel? What are they trying to get me to commit to?**
- (4) Then we let them know, **Jesus has a better answer! - Scripture has a better answer!**²
4. Those in **Group B** have gotten too far **into** the world & you need to be **kept from the evil one**. Your goal is *looking & sounding & smelling just like the world*, & you’ve forgot your mandate was not to be **of but in** the world.
- a) **Liberty** is the flag you wave, but you forgot the rest of the verse...
- b) Gal.5:13 **For you, brethren, have been called to liberty**(you have!); **only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**
- (1) **Liberty is limited by love!**
- M. **UNIFYING THEM!** (11)
- N. **That they may be one - Unity!**
1. Unity was no small request. These were tough-minded, independent, strong-willed men.
2. **Yet** He **wasn’t** after *organizational* unity, **but** “*interpersonal, relational*” unity!

² Adapted from Mark Driscoll’s Podcast; Jn.17, The People of Tension; 10-15-08.

3. Jesus wasn't after, nor is He today, after **uniformity**. He recognized their *diversity*, & He valued it.
- a) He didn't **Xerox disciples**. Nor churches for that matter.
- b) He uses our **individuality** to achieve a variety of purposes. **To fight on different battle fields, to wage different wars, to wield different weapons.**

(1) But we're all in the battle, fighting for the same King!

O. **SANCTIFYING THEM!** (17,19)

P. **Sanctifying** - doesn't mean growing a halo, **or** glowing with spirituality.

Q. It means "*to set apart for a certain purpose or for an intended use*".

1. If you take food out of the refrigerator for dinner, in the biblical sense you have sanctified that food, set it apart for a specific use.
2. **How** are you to be sanctified? By the **truth**. **And**, **Why** are we to be sanctified? To become **useful**.

R. If His **Word** is not working in us in a life-changing way, the **World** will be.

1. If we are not becoming conformed to the image of Christ, we will be squeezed into the mold of the world. [*"Dusty bibles lead to dirty lives!"*]

S. **SENDING THEM!** (18)

T. They are **not of** the world(14,16); they are **not taken out of** the world right away(15); but are **sent into** the world. *Be insulated, not isolated!*

Illustration: *There are 2 ways of handling pressure:*

One is illustrated by a **bathysphere**, the miniature submarine used to explore the ocean in places so deep that the water pressure would *crush* a conventional submarine like an aluminum can. Bathyspheres compensate with **plate steel several inches thick**, which keeps the water out but also makes them heavy and hard to maneuver. Inside they're cramped. When these craft descend to the ocean floor, however, they find they're not alone. When their lights are turned on and you look through the tiny, thick plate glass windows, what do you see? *Fish!*

These fish cope with extreme pressure in an entirely different way. They don't build thick skins: they remain supple and free. They **compensate** for the outside pressure through **equal and opposite pressure inside themselves**. **Christians**, likewise, don't have to be hard and thick skinned - as long as they appropriate **God's power within** to equal the pressure **without**.³

³ Jay Kesler in Campus Life. Leadership, Vol. 5, no. 2.