

John 17 : 15-26—Memory Verses, 20, 21.

Golden Text—I pray for them.—John 17 : 9.

and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

hast given me, be with me where I am ; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me : for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

25 O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee : but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it : that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

15 I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them through thy truth : thy word is truth.

18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word ;

21 That they all may be one ; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us : that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them ; that they may be one, even as we are one :

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one ; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me,

24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou

THE LESSON RETOLD

The disciples had been with Jesus about three years. All this time, the Master had been teaching and preparing them for the time which had now come, when He must return to His Heavenly Father, and leave them to carry on the work of preaching His gospel and beginning His church. Jesus knew that, when they were left alone, the disciples would often be perplexed and discouraged. So, while they sat together for the last time in the upper room, He prayed earnestly to His Father for a blessing upon His beloved friends, and upon all who through them should become His followers.

Now the disciples had often seen Jesus spend whole nights in prayer to His Heavenly Father, especially when He had any great work before Him, or after a busy day of preaching and teaching. Once, when they had asked Him to teach them how to pray, He had given them the prayer beginning,

"Our Father which art in heaven." The first blessing that Jesus asked from His Father for His disciples on the night before He was taken from them, was that they might be kept safe from the sin and wickedness of the world in which they lived. "Father, I pray not," said the Saviour, "that Thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep them from the evil one. While in the world, may they be saved from sin, and show in all they do that they do not belong to the world, but are followers of a heavenly Master."

Though the disciples had spent so much time with their Lord and Master, they were still far from being like Him. They were often jealous of one another, and at times quarrelsome and selfish. The Saviour knew that, when He was no longer with them, it would be doubly hard for them to do right, because men everywhere should hate them