**JOHN 17:12**

**12-4-19**

**Introduction –**

**Again, We Approach An Amazing And Powerful Text, Filled With A Great Deal Of Spiritual Truth And Power.**

**1. V. 12a – As We Look At Verse 12 At This Great Priestly Prayer, Jesus, Again, Reiterates The Fact That His Earthly Ministry Among Men Was Over. How Does He Begin Verse 12?**

**2. Of Course, This Does Not Mean That After This, The Disciples Will Be Alone – Without The Power, And Even Presence Of Christ. In What Way, Even After Jesus Ascends Back To Heaven, Will He Yet, Be Present With His Disciples? (*Through The Person Of The Holy Spirit*)**

**3. V. 12b – Who Would Like To Tell Us What Jesus Says Next In This Prayer? (*I Have Kept Them In Thy Name*)**

**4. I Would Like Us To Take A Moment, To Revisit The Word “Kept” In This Text.**

**We Revisit It Because Of Its Incredible Significance; And The Fact Of How Often We See This Word.**

**(Slide 2)**

“Kept”

TēReō (Tay-Reh'-O)

“By Implication To Detain (In Custody; Figuratively To Maintain); By Extension To Withhold (For Personal Ends; Figuratively To Keep Unmarried”

(Strong’s Concordance).

**5. Let’s Consider How Often John Uses The Word “Tereo.”**

**(Slide 3)**

Out Of The 27 Books Of The New Testament, This Greek Word Is Used A Total Of 75 Times. John Uses It 49.33% Of Those Times. He Uses It Eight Times In I John, 11 Times In Revelation, And 18 Times In The Gospel Of John.

**6. Let’s Consider Just John 17.**

**(Slide 4)**

What Is Most Significant For The Purposes Of Our Study, Is That John Records Jesus Using This Word Four Times (V. 6, 11, 12, 14) In John 17, Each Time To Describe The Spiritual Standing Of The Disciples.

**7. What Significance, If Any, Do These Facts Hold For You?**

**8. It Seems To Me, That *God Is Trying To Tell Us Something*.**

**(Slide 5)**

We Are Kept, Maintained, Reserved, And Set Apart (Sanctified) For God’s Personal Use – Not By Our Own Power And Effort, But By His!

**9. Let’s Take A Quick Look At Some Important Passages.**

**(Slide 6)**

John 6:37-40

Ephesians 4:30

Ephesians 1:13-14

**10. If We Ever Doubt The Security Of Believers, We Simply Have To Ask One Question: “Am *I* Still Saved?”**

**11. V. 12c – Precisely, How Does Jesus Describe Those, Whom He Has Kept? (“Those That Thou Gavest Me”)**

**12. Not Only Does This Verse Force Us To Deal With The Doctrine Of Eternal Security, *But Once Again*, The Issue Of *Election*, *Foreknowledge*, And *Predestination*.**

**13. V. 12d – No Matter Where We Fall On These Lofty Doctrines, One Thing Stands Sure, And Jesus Wants Us To Know What It Is.**

**What Is His Report To The Father, Concerning Those The Father Gave Him? (*He Had Lost None*)**

**14. Jesus Is 100%! Let’s Look At II Timothy 1:12.**

**15. We Have Spent A Great Deal Of Time On This Issue, Because It Has Continued To Come Up In John. So, We Will Not Go Back Over Other Relevant Passages.**

**At This Point, Only One Question, What Are The Conclusions That You Have Drawn?**

**16. V. 12e – What Gives Us The Most *Indigestion* Regarding The Whole Notion Of Election, Is Not So Much The Idea That God Chooses Some Unto Salvation.**

**The *Real* – *Deep* – *Distressful* – *Challenging* Aspect Of This, Is The Other Side Of The Coin. It Comes From What Is Expressed Next In Verse 12.**

**What Else Does Jesus Say? (*The Son Of Perdition – The Child Of Lostness*)**

**(Slide 7)**

What *Sticks In Our Throat* Most, Is The “Judas Question!”

**17. “The Judas Question” Takes Us To Places We Would Rather Not Go. It Forces Us To Ask Hard Questions – *Even If We Don’t Have The Answers*.**

**(Slide 8)**

Did Judas Have A Choice?

Was He Born, Solely For The Purpose Of Being Condemned?

Was He Not *Chosen* As The Other 11? Was He Saved, And Then Lost His Salvation?

**18. The Lines Are Drawn…**

* **Some Say, No One Has A Choice. God, In Eternity Past Has Already Predestined Those, Who Will Be Saved.**
* **Some Say, That All Humanity Has The Free Will To Receive Or Reject Christ.**
* **Some Say, That In Eternity Past, God Predetermined That There Would Be A Group (Elect/Remnant), And Mankind Has The Ability To Choose Whether To Be One Of This Group.**

**19. I Believe One Of The Great Challenges To Our Understanding Of These Questions Is Our Distorted View Of The Nature Of Humanity.**

**Many Christians View The Unsaved (Like Judas) This Way:**

**(Slide 9)**

“If They Only Have The Opportunity, They Would Come To Christ.”

“If They Have Enough Information And Truth (The Gospel) They Would Come To Christ.”

“If The Gospel Was Delivered To Them, Effectively, And Clearly, They Would Come To Christ.”

**20. The Question We Must Ask Is This…**

**Which Of These Things Did Judas Lack?**

**21. V. 12f – Jesus Ends This Verse With A Statement That Does Not Ease Our Indigestion, But Adds To The Mystery. What Does He Say?**

**22. Jesus *Chose* Judas Because He Knew The Plan, And That Judas Was A Part Of That Plan. Yet, Judas Was Still Held *Responsible* For His Actions!**

***Luke 22:21-22***