

JESUS PRAYS FOR US LESSON 4: "FATHER, KEEP THEM!" JOHN 17:11

I. Introduction

Psalm 121:4 "indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."

II. In order to "keep us," He has to know us. Example: Jacob (Gen. 25-49)

A. He knows our name (John 10:3-14)

B. He knows our needs (Matt. 6:32)

1. Israel in the wilderness Deut 2:7
2. Elijah during the famine 1 Kings 17:6-16
3. The prophets widow 2 Kings 4:6
4. The multitude Matt. 14:20

C. He knows us!

Psalm 139:1-6 "O LORD , you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord. You hem me in-behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain."

III. In order to "keep us," He has to care for us. Example: Elijah (1 Kings 17-19)

A. He will not leave us (Gen. 28:15, John 14:3)

B. He prepares our "blessings" (Ps. 23:5, Ps. 31:19)

C. He shelters us

1. In time of trouble

Ps. 57:1 "Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me, for in you my soul takes refuge, I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed."

2. It's a refuge
Isa. 25:4 "You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall."
3. Tucked in the cleft of the rock (Ex. 33:22) or in the shadow of His Hand (Isaiah 51:16)

IV. In order to "keep us" He has to preserve us. Example: Israel

Ps. 31:23 "Love the Lord, all his saints! The Lord preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full."

Ps. 37:28 "For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off;"

2 Tim. 4:18 "The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen."

V. Christ asks the Father to keep us close, but it's still our choice. See Rev. 3:20.

Discussion Questions

1. When someone knows you by name, what level of relationship does it suggest? Do you marvel at the fact that God knows all of our names?
2. Is it comforting to know that the Lord is intimately acquainted with you? What does that imply?
3. Discuss what it means to have God care for you. Be specific. Do you really believe it?
4. What does 2 Tim. 4:8 mean to you?