

# Protection for His Disciples

Series: Ten Messages from John 17

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The NT is filled with examples of Jesus' protection of his disciples while he was on earth. In John 10 he likens himself with the shepherd who will lay down his life for his sheep. He tells them that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for his friends. Jesus made it clear that he was going to always be there to keep his disciples safe. Yet there is an irony to this matter. Jesus also exposed his disciples to danger. Protection did not mean locking them in a protective room away from the harsh realities of life. Some parents in their attempts to protect their children work tirelessly to remove every possible danger, making it impossible for the child to learn to live in a world filled with danger. Look at some examples before we get to our text in John 17:

- Matthew 8:23-27, Jesus sleeping in the boat during the storm.
- Matthew 10:1ff, Jesus sending out the 12 like sheep among the wolves. He spends a lot of time warning them about all the things that could and would happen to them.
- Matthew 11:1ff, Jesus' servant John the Baptist who had a very dangerous job.
- Matthew 14:22ff, Peter walking on the water
- Mark 5:1ff, Healing the demon-possessed man, Legion, Tombs.

Our text: John 17:11-12, "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by the name you gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled."

- Is Jesus experiencing some separation anxiety? We often frame this from the perspective of the apostles, their anxiety over his leaving. Of all the people on the face of the earth, these 12 are among the closest friends he has. He knows he will be OK-he is going home. But, they are being left behind on the frontlines.
- Jesus, better than anyone, understands that this world is a war zone. Rev.12:, the furious dragon will make war against the rest of her offspring. Jesus has experienced in the flesh how dangerous this world can be-and not just the physical danger. Heb.2:8-18 Read.
- There is protection in the Name of Jesus. The authority is in the name. Notice how this worked in the book of Acts:
  - Acts 2: 21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

- Acts 2:38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 3: 6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.”
- Acts 3: 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.
- Acts 4:10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.
- Acts 4: 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”
- Acts 5:28, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood
- Acts 5: 41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.
- Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.
- Acts 15: 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Acts 21:13, Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”
- The goal is for “none to be lost”
  - Luke 15-Sheep, coin, boy
  - Jesus uses us to protect others.
  - No one Left Behind: **“No man left behind” has become one of the most memorable tropes of America’s armed forces. The idea, which was spawned centuries ago, exemplifies the respect that the American people and military feel is due to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. This strong commitment to our country’s heroes can be seen in one group’s efforts to search high and low for the remains of missing soldiers. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, has made its mission to return these remains to the soldiers’ families.**

**For thousands of families, the DPAA is providing the opportunity to say goodbye in the right way. Their work helps provide closure, for which some have been waiting decades.**

### **Where It All Began**

The U.S. military's "no man left behind" policy can be traced back to the French and Indian War. Robert Rogers, an American frontier soldier, led a 600-man militia group known as Rogers' Raiders using adapted Indian fighting techniques to conduct raids, scout enemy positions, and capture prisoners. The group acted under a specific and regimented set of rules, outlined by Rogers, that have set the standard for many of today's military guidelines. One policy was to make sure that every single member of the Rangers was accounted for post-battle. Members of the Rangers went on to lead the First Continental Army during America's Revolutionary War, and their "No man left behind" motto became a central fixture of U.S. military protocol. It wasn't until the Vietnam War that the creed spread beyond military usage and into the consciousness of the American public. During that period, war-time coverage became more widespread than ever. By 1965, 90% of American households owned a television and a majority of them used it as their primary source for news consumption. Nightly televised death tolls conveyed the reality of the sacrifice being made by service members abroad. There were also many published news stories on the war, like Life magazine's June 1969 issue, which shared the names and pictures of 242 Americans who lost their lives over the span of a week. When an American soldier was lost or left behind, the public now had access to information about it. The number of lives lost during the Vietnam War was staggering, but equally unsettling was the large number of those designated as MIA, or "missing in action." In 1973, approximately 2,500 servicemen were designated as MIA. By 2015, more than 1,600 of those were still labeled as "unaccounted for." Many families not only lost relatives, but the opportunity to grieve them properly.

### **"No Man Left Behind" In Action**

Founded in 2015, the DPAA has set to work to honor these fallen heroes and hold true to the well-known American credo. Dr. John Byrd, DPAA Lab Director, explains the enormity of the program's mission: "Our scope of work is just over 30,000 cases that need to be solved. These are mostly from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War." <https://www.freethink.com/culture/no-man-left-behind>

- The word translated "protect" in the NIV is also translated "kept." It means to keep watch over, guard, preserve, shield, to keep in custody, to maintain, to keep in a condition. A similar admonition is given to the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:28-

31, 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

We live in a dangerous world, militarily, pandemically, economically, socially, psychologically, criminally, ecologically, accidentally, and especially spiritually. Fathers and Big Brothers do what all fathers and big brothers do, they protect. They come alongside. They provide cover, comfort, and combat. Never has it been more important than now to live under the shelter of God's wing.