

# Jesus Prays for His Disciples

In the Lord's Prayer we are taught to pray like this: "Don't lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (Matthew 6:13). Was Jesus asking God to keep Christians from hearing or seeing the evil of this world? Does it mean that Jesus implied in this prayer that Christians would never be affected by evil or by what evil people do? What does "deliver us from evil" mean? In today's story you will read about another time when Jesus prayed. How similar are these two prayers?

"Where is Judas going?" asked one disciple to the other.

"Since he handles our money, maybe he is running an errand for Jesus" said the second disciple.

After Judas left, Jesus spoke to the disciples about what they would face in the future. He predicted his death and spoke about his resurrection.

"I've said all this so you would not stop trusting in me. You will be expelled from the synagogue, and the day will come when anyone who kills you will think he's doing God a favor." Then Jesus began to pray, saying, "My Father, the time has come for you to show people

how powerful I am. Thus, I also have shown them how great and wonderful you are. To everyone I showed how great and powerful you are, because I did everything you commanded me."

"Why does this prayer sound like his last?" some asked. The disciples heard Jesus talking to God about them. "I have shown who you are to the followers you gave me. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed all I commanded them. I pray for them. I'm not praying for the people who don't accept me and just think about the things of this world. In-

stead, I pray for the followers who you gave me and they're yours. Heavenly Father, soon I won't be in the world, because I go where you are. But my followers will remain in this world. So I ask that you take care of them. While I was with them, I took care of them with the power that you gave me, and none stopped trusting me except Judas. I don't ask you to take them out of the world but that you protect them from Satan. I am not of this world, and neither are they. Your message is true; help them to listen and surrender completely to you."

The disciples thought about Jesus' words: "I don't pray only for them but also for those who will believe in me when they hear your message." They must have thought to themselves, "I wonder how many will believe us if Jesus is not here?!" "Who will believe in our message? Not the religious leaders who are here!" "Shortly after Jesus said this prayer, he and his disciples left the place where they had been. They went to an olive orchard. There, a band of soldiers led by Judas arrested Jesus and took him away."

