



March 1, 2024

Father Keep Them

Scripture: John 17:11-17

Big Idea: We are called to live in the “already not yet”; the inbreaking of the Kingdom and thereby Shalom on earth.

The Challenge: Jesus calls us to be Salt and light. A representative of the Kingdom breaking in, we are bringing forth Shalom. The challenge is for us to not fall into either segregation or assimilation, but rather to hold the tension of those extremes.

Pastoral Prayer for this Message: That we would hold the tension well of being in the world, but not of the world. That we would be effective in holding fast to the truth of the gospel, yet not withdraw.

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Unity – Jesus prays for protection so they we may be as one as is the trinity.
 - “As we are one” – what does the oneness of the trinity look like?
 - Thinking of the larger universal church, what does it mean to be “one as we are one”?
 - Thinking of KAC, what does it mean to be “one as we are one”?
- 2) Heaven – The perception of Heaven has been westernized. Our western culture has shaped it to be an escape, a place that aim for as we are simply passing through this world.
 - What has been my belief been around heaven and its purpose?
 - Where and how was that theology formed?
 - How has that theology influenced the way I live?
 - Reading (skimming ☺) Rev 21 and 22, how does this push against my current theology of Heaven?
- 3) Segregation vs Assimilation – Jesus prays that we are to be in the world, but that we are not of this world. We are called to be engaged in bringing, the ushering, the breaking in of the New Kingdom. However, the challenges that we face are to neither segregate from the world, nor to assimilate to the world.
 - In what ways do you find the tension segregation and assimilation?
 - What areas of your life do you find yourself segregating?
 - What areas of your life do you find yourself assimilating?
- 4) Right, Wrong, Neither - There are three major categories in determining our lived theology: Things that are right, wrong and things that are neither.
 - What are some of the things in your life that you feel strongly about and how would you categorize them?
 - How are you basing that category?
 - What are some things that you have categorized as “right” or “wrong” that may be neither?

- What are some things that you have categorized as “neither” that may be either “wrong” or “right”?
 - How comfortable are you in holding that tension?
- 5) Shalom – The in breaking of the Kingdom calls us to bring Shalom. We are to be restores of Eden, to bring a piece of the Garden here on Earth. If Christians were to be removed from the world, the comment should be “It would be disastrous for the world to have the taken out of them”.
- Reflecting on your life, who would be most affected if you were taken away today?
 - Does that impact beyond a Christian circle?
 - What does it look like to be faithful in what He has called you to be?
 - How does the Holy Spirit God guide you in being Shalom on this earth?
 - What practices do you use to quite your heart, and to listen?
 - How are you daily creating places and spaces for living in His presence?