

“He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.” John 18:9 NLT

lectio // John 18:1-19:42

John writes that Jesus wasn't quoting an Old Covenant prophet here, rather he quotes his own words in John 6:39 and 17:12. On the shore of the lake in Capernaum he told the crowd, “For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will. And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day.” And in this amazing prayer to God about his followers he says, “During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.” Honestly, I had no idea that Jesus had extended his authority and power in such a way. Just to think of all the things that could have happened to any one of his disciples over THREE YEARS, it's astounding to think about Jesus' protection, from Satan or man's own evil to kill, steal or destroy these guys as they are in full-time training to lead the church and forward the gospel after Jesus' death. I never knew! And, we know that all of the 12, except John, were martyred for their faith. And John himself was tortured and exiled. That phrase Jesus says just gives me chills, “I should raise them up at the last day.” Have I, have you possibly enjoyed some supernatural protection as an ambassador of his grace? Many have had their lives taken because of Christ, but many have also been spared. I don't have to understand all that, other than the fact that either way, Christ will also RAISE US up! Wow! This makes me want to do the job God has called me to do and whether I go naturally or miraculously martyred, I look forward to that day.

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Dad,

What a day of rejoicing that will be... when we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory! Did the disciples know they were under Christ's protection as John says? We're they curious about dodging sickness, attacks, threats and catastrophes while in their three year, life on the road, schooling? I have sensed a few times in my life that you have guarded me. Mostly from my own stupidity, but also from unknown danger. Thank you.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root