

GOSPEL PEARLS

“What is man that You take thought of him?”

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Jesus looked toward the heavens and said: “And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not

of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. (John 17: 11b-19)

So that His disciples don't lose their way, Jesus commends them to the protection of His Father who in His turn had given them to Him to care for. In this loving relationship between the Son and the Father, who exchange reciprocally their care for mankind, we find the answer to the question posed in Psalm 8: "What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?" Every man is loved by God to the extent that the Son of God would have died on the cross even for the sake of saving one single sinner. In order not render Jesus' sacrifice on the cross useless, we must strive to do God's Will each and every day as an act of love.