

God's Prayer For You John 17:20-23 & Romans 8 Rev. Matthew Harder January 12, 2025

Big Idea: Jesus not only died for us he is caring for us.

Overview of Intercessory Prayer

In Jewish tradition, intercessory prayers were deeply rooted in the needs of the moment. Healing the sick, protection from harm, and blessings for the community were common themes. There was a strong focus on the communal well-being—praying for rain, good harvests, peace. These prayers were very much about the present and immediate future.

Does God really care right now?

- God does not care
- God cared
- God cares collectively
- God caring

John 17:20

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.

JESUS DOES SOMETHING UNEXPECTED

- He prays for future believers—for us.
- This was not typical in Jewish prayer traditions, but Jesus isn't a typical rabi.

GODS PRAYER FOR YOU

- The same God who keeps the universe in order, who holds everything together, also holds you personally in His hand.
- He placed the stars in the sky—stars so numerous we can't count them. Yet, He counts every single tear you cry, showing His intimate care for you.
- Though He overcame the world, He still cares deeply about what's happening in your world, in your life, right now.

John 17:21a

That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.

- Unity in the Trinity
- Unity in the Body

God cares for you that's why unity is so important. Care through the body.

John 17:21b

May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

How are we living out this unity personally & publically?

John 17:22

I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.

GOD SHARES HIS GLORY FOR HIS GLORY

GOD'S PRAYER FOR YOU

Is your unity bringing God Glory?

Romans 8:34

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God...and is also interceding for us.

- One with God
- One with Followers of Christ
- Together in Glory