

John chapter 17, the middle of what's called Jesus high priestly prayer. Jesus prays for the disciples and He prays for us, those who would believe. Imagine someone comes up to you and says "I'm praying for you" and you say "oh what's wrong with me." When Jesus says "I'm praying for you" we should say "oh what's wrong." He tells us what's wrong -we're in the world.

Jesus Himself promises, even, just a few verses before He says in this world you will have trouble, the world will hate you and He prays for His people still in the world. You dear Christian are not of the world. Jesus has separated you from the unbelieving world. This means you have a life full of trouble world and our sinful flesh and the devil are constantly attacking to destroy your faith in God and your love for others. That's why Jesus prays for you.

And that means, beyond your thoughts, that fact that Jesus is praying for you, it also means the Father is acting upon you. Working upon you, others. And often we do not see or understand or realize all that the Father is working.

But don't miss this point. That by His prayer, you receive His works and have a heavenly Father and this alone, you are able to endure.

The glory that you have given me I have given to them. . . that they may be one. He prays for you, for what's wrong. What that means is the Lord is working, to bring His Church, people, resources to come to bear in your life.

He prays not that we would be happy or comfortable or livelong and well but that we might be one. Now foremost this is centered in life in His Church and most foremost the Sacrament of the Altar. Desire it for all in accord with His teaching, He prays this for you, that on the night He institutes the Supper, joined to His very body and blood. One in Him. For forgiveness, for strength, for faith, in oneness.

Even you aren't immune to loneliness, isolation. Solitary lives, perhaps imprisoned with technology. With all the ways technology connects -we live in a world more lonely, depressed that ever in human history.

He prays He might fill your loneliness, your longing so that we would venture forth from our retreats and refuges, from our homes, from our small, little world into the glorious presence of God. Happens here, the most sacred place on earth, each Sunday. His gifts in Word, Sacraments. Joined to Him in oneness, as He prays and gives, as in no other way on earth. He prays and works upon you and others be to drawn here and joined to His one truth, one doctrine, one Church. We need what is given here more than anything in life. His glory is still beheld in a place of His declaration and in the oneness of His works. And then you go out, discover whom all the Lord has, will drawn into your life that you can be a blessing. He prays for you, for what's wrong? What's wrong? This week in Texas, continually takes places every week, in cities, abortion clinics, in homes, you are surrounded by a violence, hostile world. Sin at every turn.

Jesus says I will save you from the wrath to come, I am your hope on the Judgment Day. Follow me but this means you are surrounded by the enemies, surrounded by hatred, the evil, the brokenness -you're surrounded and attacked each day, let that sink in a little bit.

That why He is praying for you. Jesus says the world hates you and you will have to endure much hardships, you know what I'm going do about it. I am going to send you into the **midst of it like sheep into the midst of wolves** - which doesn't sound like a good plan- but it's Jesus plan so it's the best plan. He sends you out into the world as bearers of His light, to confession His life to a dying, dead world, to speak His truth and face the consequences and you might have to suffer for it, He's told you. But you belong to Him. He loves you, He loves the world, He wants you to shine as lights in midst of a dark generation.

You are surrounded by evil. Sometimes its strikes close to home; other times you see the news. Who is not moved by the violence. To see parents once again in tears, devastated, even one of them an officers responding who will find his daughter among the victims. Lord help them.

Who doesn't pray, **Amen Come Lord Jesus. Come quickly.** Who hasn't questioned God? Why me? Why them, Why God allows such things to take place? If you haven't, just ask the parents of the children in Texas.

What does your Lord tell you? **The Lord is with us. What can man do to me? Therefore I will not fear.** What does He say? **Not one of my own will be snatched from my hand.** In places of loneliness, evil -tells you **I am with you always.** He says to His own, whether those graves you visit this weekend, whether your dying parent or violence to a small child of His, **today you will be with me in paradise.**

Whatever might happen, because the Lord prays, you have enough to endure, enough for each day, come what may; gives you strength, comfort, peace not of this world. You have nothing to be afraid. What can separate you from Him? His prayer for you is even answered that He has defeated anything, anyone, any disease that can harm His own? Rejoice.

Jesus suffers, dies, lives, ascended, rules and reigns in glory of His throne that you will be able then, to rejoice in this world; because you have Him joined to you -you will be able to get through anything in this life. **I am with you always,** so that you can live and die completely unafraid knowing that You have a life that never ends and a blessed reunion awaits you as you reflect this memorial weekend. Rejoice in the midst of tears, in the midst of a violence world, for the world did violence to Jesus before you even came around but Jesus loves you more than you can imagine. He is taking care of you in these evil times more than you can imagine. Our Lord unites you, one in Him, let His Words and Life and Sacraments have its way with you and that is enough. Promises that never fail.