

The Night the King Prayed for You

March 22, 2026

Scripture Focus: [John 17](#) and [Matthew 26:36-46](#)

I. The Prelude: The Weight of the Hour

- **Context:** The Last Supper has ended. Judas has left to fulfill his betrayal. The shadow of the Cross is no longer a distant prophecy; it is hours away.
- **The Atmosphere:** High tension, confusion among the disciples, and the “heavy” air of the Kidron Valley.
- **Key Scripture:** *“After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed...”* ([John 17:1](#))
- **Point:** Before Jesus faced the world’s hate, He looked to His Father’s love. He anchored Himself in prayer before He anchored Himself to the Cross.

II. The High Priestly Prayer ([John 17](#))

Break this down into the three “circles” of Jesus’ concern:

1. **For His Glory (vv. 1-5):** Jesus prays to return to the Father. His “glory” isn’t a crown of gold, but a crown of thorns. He prays for the strength to complete the mission.
2. **For His Disciples (vv. 6-19):** He prays for their protection and sanctification. He knows they will be “in the world but not of it.”
3. **For US (vv. 20-26):** *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.”*
 - **Heart-Touching Moment:** In His final hours, Jesus wasn’t thinking of His own pain; He was thinking of *your* name. He prayed for our unity and that we would see His glory.

III. The Crushing in the Garden ([Matthew 26:36-46](#))

- **The Location:** Gethsemane (The Oil Press).

- The Agony: *“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.”* (v. 38). This is the most “human” we see Jesus. He is sweating blood ([Luke 22:44](#)), a physical manifestation of extreme mental anguish.
- The Request: *“My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me.”* (v. 39). He wasn’t afraid of the physical nails; He was trembling at the “cup” of God’s judgment for the world’s sin.
- The Submission: *“Yet not as I will, but as you will.”* * The Lesson: This is where the battle was won. Before the nails touched His hands, He surrendered His will.

IV. The Isolation and the Answer

- The Sleeping Friends: While Jesus fought the battle of the ages, His best friends slept. He was utterly alone so that we would never have to be.
- The Silence of God: The Father doesn’t take the cup away. Instead, He sends an angel to strengthen Him ([Luke 22:43](#)).
- The Resolution: Jesus stands up, wakes the disciples, and says, *“Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer.”* (v. 46). He doesn’t run; He walks toward the kiss of betrayal with peace.

V. Closing Thought: The Name on His Lips

We often feel that when we pray, we are trying to get God’s attention. But the night before He died, you already had it. Before you were even born, the Son of God spent His final moments of freedom asking the Father to keep you, to love you, and to bring you home. The Cross was the answer to the prayer He prayed in the Garden.

VI. The Closing Prayer

“Lord Jesus, we are humbled by the Garden. We thank You that when the weight of the world’s sin was placed in the press, You did not run. Thank You for praying

for us when we didn't know how to pray for ourselves. As we leave this place, let the words 'Not my will, but Yours' become the rhythm of our lives. May we live in the unity and love You asked for on that dark night. Amen."