

## Paul Simon "Wartime Prayers"

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Prayers offered in times of peace are silent  
conversations,  
Appeals for love or loves release, in private  
invocations.

But all that is changed now,  
Gone like a memory from the day before the fires.  
People hungry for the voice of God  
Hear lunatics and liars

Wartime prayers, wartime prayers  
In every language spoken,  
For every family scattered and broken.

Because you cannot walk with the holy,  
If you're just a halfway decent man.  
But I don't pretend that I'm a mastermind  
With a genius marketing plan.

I'm trying to tap into some wisdom,  
Even a little drop would do.  
I want to rid my heart of envy  
And cleanse my soul of rage  
Before I feel.

Times are hard, hard times,  
But everybody knows all about hard times.  
The thing is, what are you gonna do?  
Will you cry?  
And try to muscle through?  
And try to rearrange your stuff?  
But when the wounds are deep enough,  
And it's all that we can bear,  
We wrap ourselves in prayer.

Because you cannot walk with the holy,  
If you're just a halfway decent man.  
But I don't pretend that I'm a mastermind  
With a genius marketing plan.  
I'm trying to tap into some wisdom,  
Even a little drop would do.  
I want to rid my heart of envy

And cleanse my soul of rage  
Before I'm through.

A mother murmurs in twilight sleep  
And draws her babies closer.  
With hush-a-bies for sleepy eyes,  
And kisses on the shoulder.  
To drive away despair  
She sends a wartime prayer.

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