



Draw Near
Pray Counterintuitively

MLK VIDEO

Luke 6:27-31 (Pg. 1033)

“But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

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Mark 6:41

**He *blessed* the food *and broke* the
loaves.**



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Mark 14:22

**Jesus took some bread and *blessed* it.
Then he *broke* it.**



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Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 6:27-31 (Pg. 1033)

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Luke 23:34

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

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Battle for Britain 1940

A person's legs in dark pants and sneakers are visible, standing on a wet, reflective surface. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a city street at night with lights reflecting on the wet pavement.

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C. S. Lewis writes:

“The practical problem about charity (in our prayers) is very hard work, isn’t it? When you pray for Hitler & Stalin, how do you actually teach yourself to make the prayer real?”

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The two things that help me are (a) A continual grasp of the idea that one is only joining one's feeble little voice to the perpetual intercession of Christ, who died for those very men (b) A recollection, as firm as one can make it, of all one's own cruelty which might have blossomed, under different conditions, into something terrible. You and I are not, at bottom, so different from these ghastly creatures."

– *Collected Letters*, 16 April 1940

Draw Near

**Holocaust survivor
Yemiel Dinur
fainting during
Eichmann trial in
Jerusalem on June
9, 1961.**



Draw Near

"Was Dinur overcome by hatred? Fear? Horrid memories? No; it was none of these. Rather, as Dinur explained to Wallace, all at once he realized Eichmann was not the god-like army officer who had sent so many to their deaths. This Eichmann was an ordinary man. "I was afraid about myself," said Dinur. "... I saw that I am capable to do this. I am ... exactly like he.""

– Gene Getz: The Measure of a Man

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Just look at the verbs ...

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The essence of the Christian life is love. This love is manifested by responding to personal insult and injustice, not with retaliation or even passive endurance, but with positive and aggressive acts of goodness designed to redeem the offenders and undermine hostility and violence.

– Joel Green

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“I pray because I can't help myself. I pray because I'm helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time, waking and sleeping. It doesn't change God. It changes me.”

— C.S. Lewis

A low-angle, close-up shot of a person's legs from the knees down, standing on a wet, reflective pavement at night. The person is wearing dark blue denim jeans and black sneakers with white soles. The background is heavily blurred, showing out-of-focus city lights and streetlights, creating a bokeh effect. The overall mood is urban and atmospheric.

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