

Written prayers

for challenging leaders, and us as we challenge them

These two written prayers were both written in contextualising blogs during February 2017, when President Trump had only been in office a few weeks and taken a considerable number of controversial actions, Prime Minister Theresa May had closed the Dub's Amendment scheme for unaccompanied child refugees to be able to come to the UK and the news and social media were flooded both with stories surrounding Brexit and President Trump, and angry reactions against these. Both prayers are taken from contextualising blogs which you might be interested to read, the first from [how does love take hostile ground?](#) and the second from [a gift to 2017, with love from Psalm 72](#).

They are applicable in any context where a leader is – or is perceived to be – challenging, unjust or seeming not to love some of the valuable and vulnerable people they have power over.

A prayer for love to take hostile ground

Lord Jesus –
Love made known to a hostile world –
you stared hatred in the face
while you hung on the cross,
and loved all who destroyed you,
themselves and each other
with reckless, resilient love.

Lord Jesus,
Show us how to still turn over tables –
with passionate, intolerant commotion
about injustice, exploitation and profiteering religion –
but without somehow flipping our hearts
half over and wholly out of love
in the process.

Lord Jesus,
we need daily help
to tell the truth in love
in our conversations,
social media feeds,
campaign actions
and most of all, in our prayers.

Lord Jesus,
fill us with your love
for those who do not love
the valuable and vulnerable.
And this way, let's take the hostile ground

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remaining in their precious, fearful hearts
by challenging them always and only in love.

A prayer guide for any given leader, inspired by Psalm 72, verses 1-7 and 18-19

Pray that *[insert name]* would be endowed with justice and judge the people with righteousness, ensuring particular attention and proactive justice for those who are afflicted or weak.

Ask God to use the resources of *[insert nation, area or group]* that you have given to all of the people under this leader to be released to be well used in order to bring everyone stability and plenty.

Spend time praying for *[insert name]* to have a softened heart in order that those who suffer or are vulnerable – and especially the children of these individuals and groups within society – are cared for and safe.

And ask God to give *[insert name]* a revelation of who the true enemy is, when they are tempted to live out of fear rather than love, and to defend themselves from those who need as much defending as their people, rather than recognising the devil's schemes to turn people against each other.

There is an oppressor to crush – the father of lies – so pray for *[insert name]* to see the truth and oppose all lies, fear and oppression.

This kind of leader – the one you have been praying for to emerge, and blessing the image of God in – this one, you will find you can pray for to have long-lasting authority.... because who doesn't want a leader who is like rain falling on a mown field?

Timely, serving, safe, refreshing and life-bringing...

... a leader under which the righteous can, and would, truly flourish.

And remember... anything is possible with God... so turn your gaze back to Jesus as the psalm's closing verses remind us to:

Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does marvelous deeds.
Praise be to his glorious name forever;
may the whole earth be filled with his glory.
Amen and Amen.