



*You've Heard
It Said...*

Love...even for an enemy.

MATTHEW 5:43-48





Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.



Matthew 5:43-48

⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



2 TYPES OF ENEMIES...

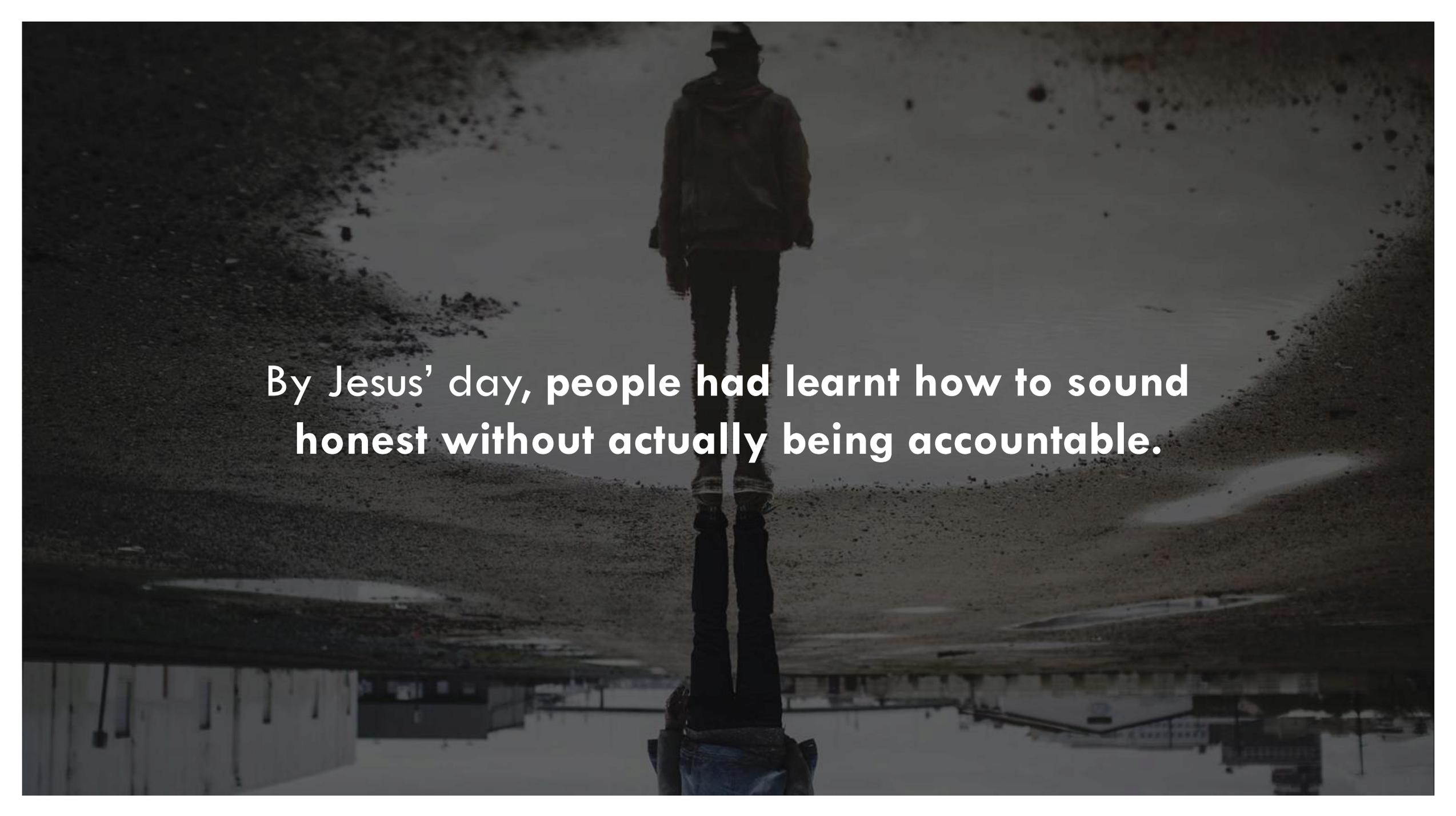
REAL



2 TYPES OF ENEMIES...

REAL & IMAGINED



A dark, grainy photograph showing a person standing on the shoulders of another person. The person on top is wearing a hat and a jacket, and is looking away from the camera. The person on the bottom is wearing a blue jacket. The background is a dark, industrial or construction site with some structures and equipment visible. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

By Jesus' day, people had learnt how to sound honest without actually being accountable.



2 TYPES OF ENEMIES

REAL & IMAGINED



Romans 12:14-21

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary:

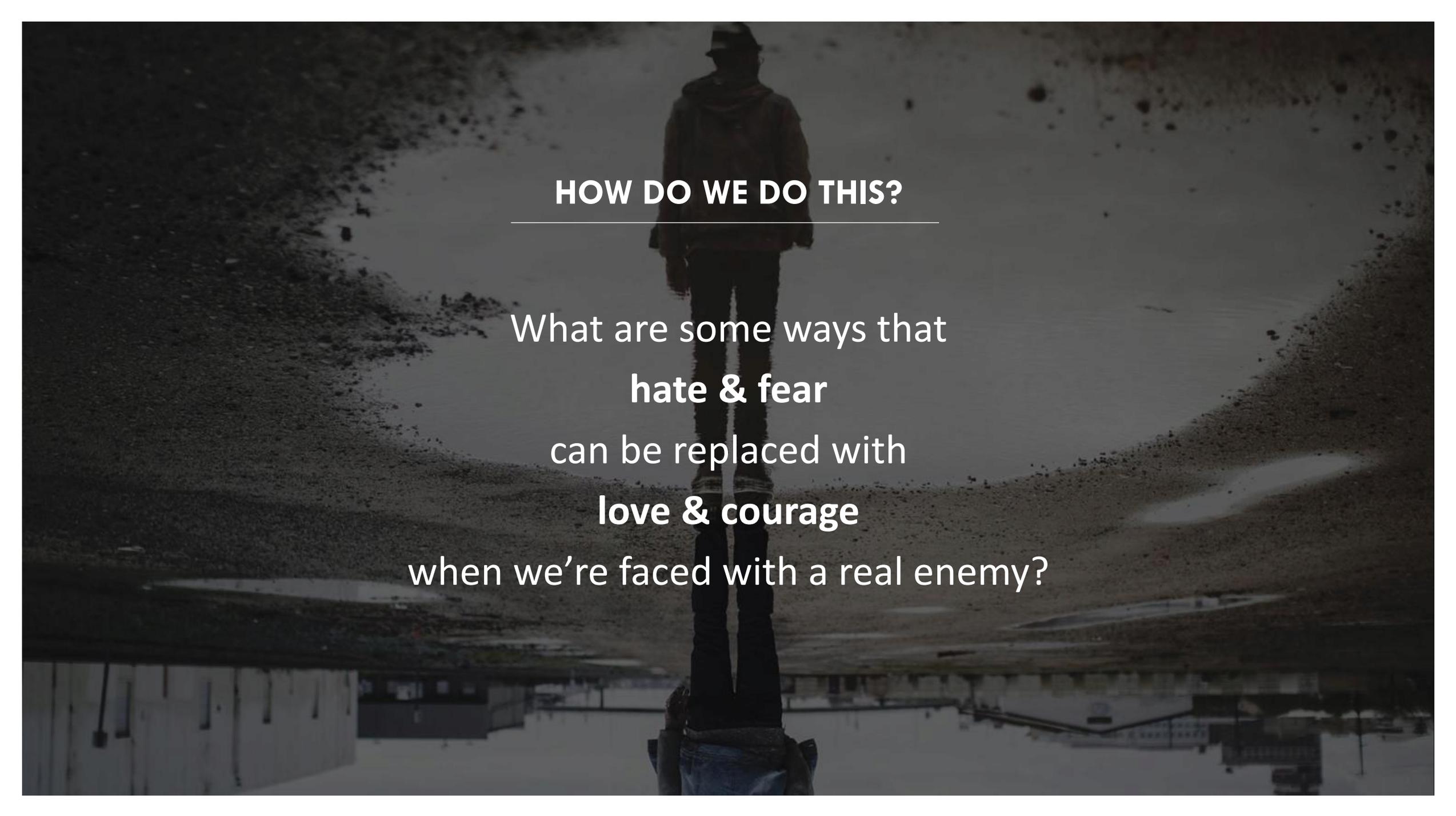


Romans 12:14-21

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;
if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

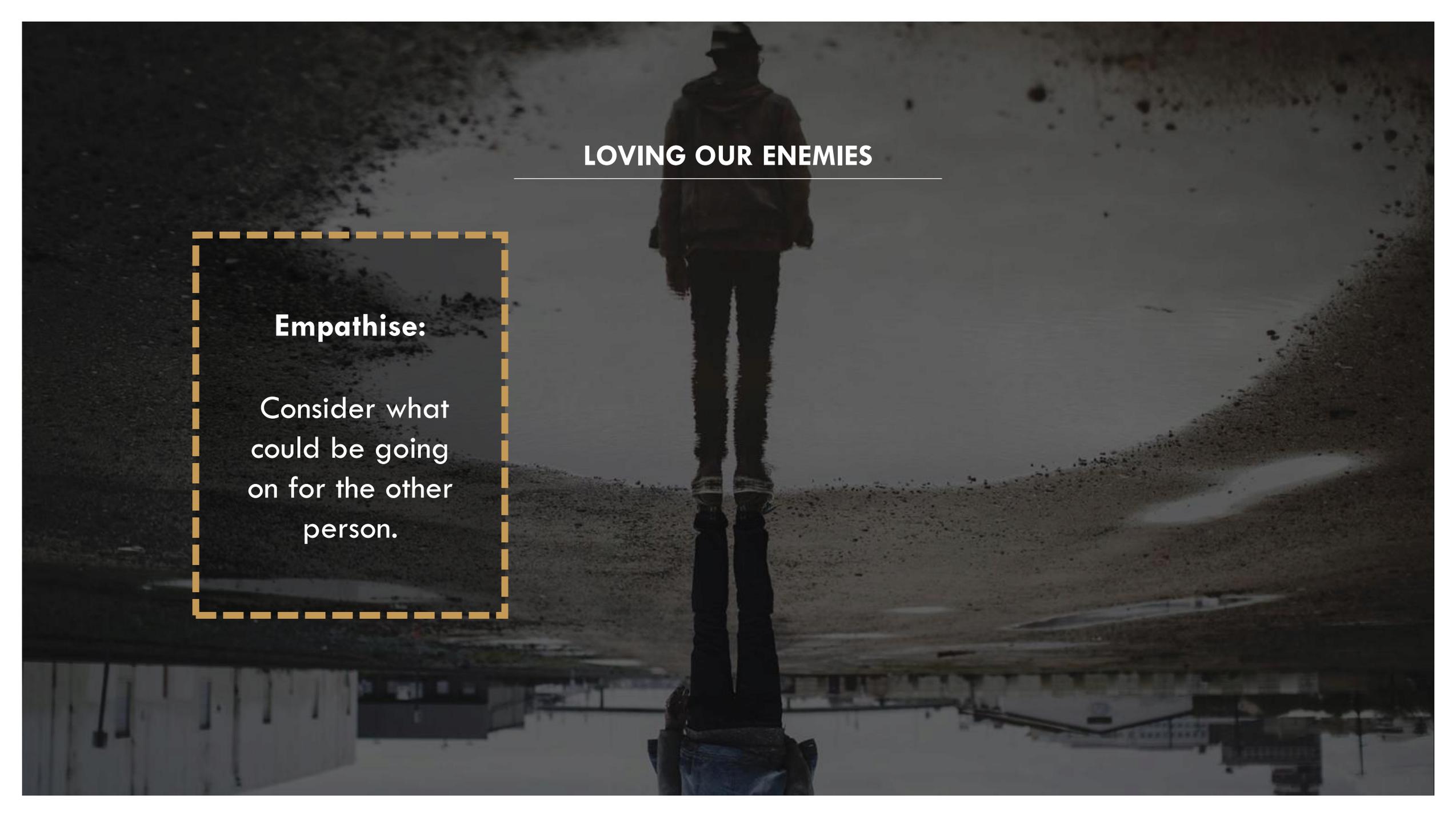
In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A person wearing a hat and a jacket stands on the shoulders of a large crowd of people, creating a human pyramid. The scene is dimly lit, with the crowd appearing as a textured sea of heads and shoulders. The person at the top is silhouetted against a slightly brighter background.

HOW DO WE DO THIS?

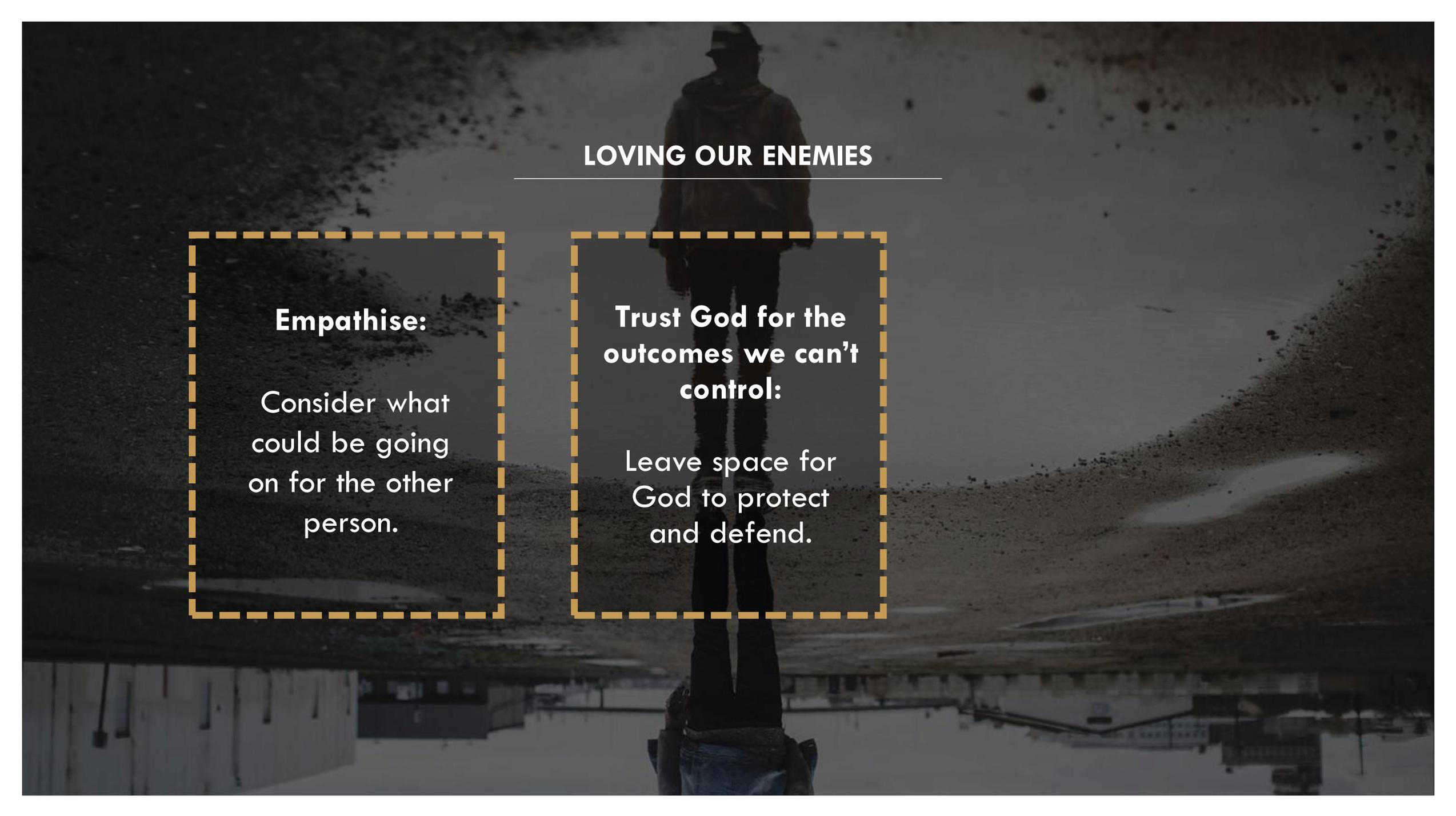
What are some ways that
hate & fear
can be replaced with
love & courage
when we're faced with a real enemy?

A person wearing a hat and a jacket stands on a large, dark pile of rubble or debris. The person's reflection is clearly visible in a puddle of water on the ground directly in front of them. The background shows more rubble and some structures in the distance, all under a dark, overcast sky.

LOVING OUR ENEMIES

Empathise:

Consider what
could be going
on for the other
person.

A person wearing a hat and jacket stands on the shoulders of another person who is lying on their back in a snowy field. The background shows a vast, open landscape under a cloudy sky.

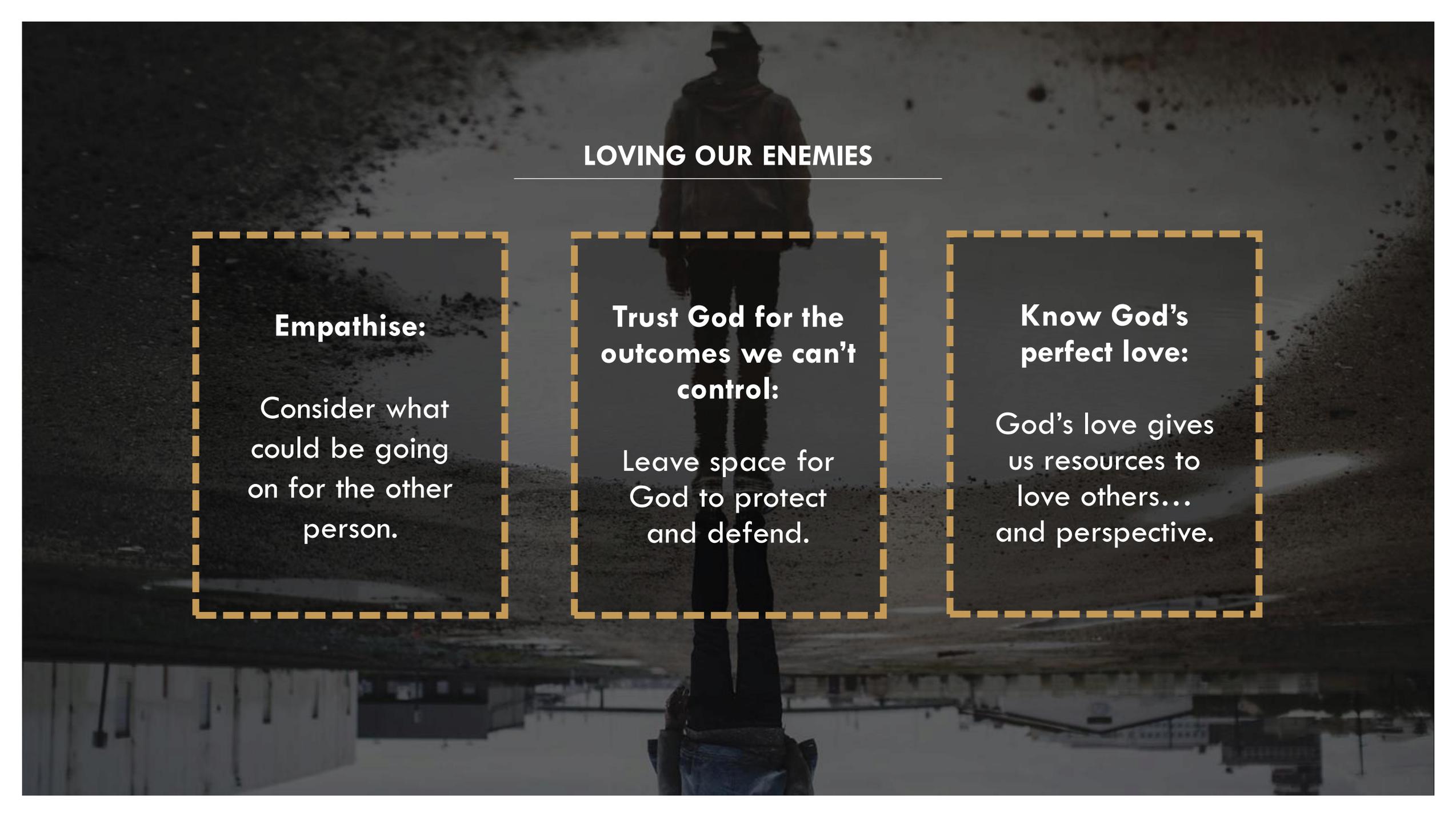
LOVING OUR ENEMIES

Empathise:

Consider what could be going on for the other person.

Trust God for the outcomes we can't control:

Leave space for God to protect and defend.

A person is seen from behind, balancing on a tightrope high above a city. The person is wearing a hat and a jacket. The city below is visible through a hazy, overcast sky. The overall tone is somber and contemplative.

LOVING OUR ENEMIES

Empathise:

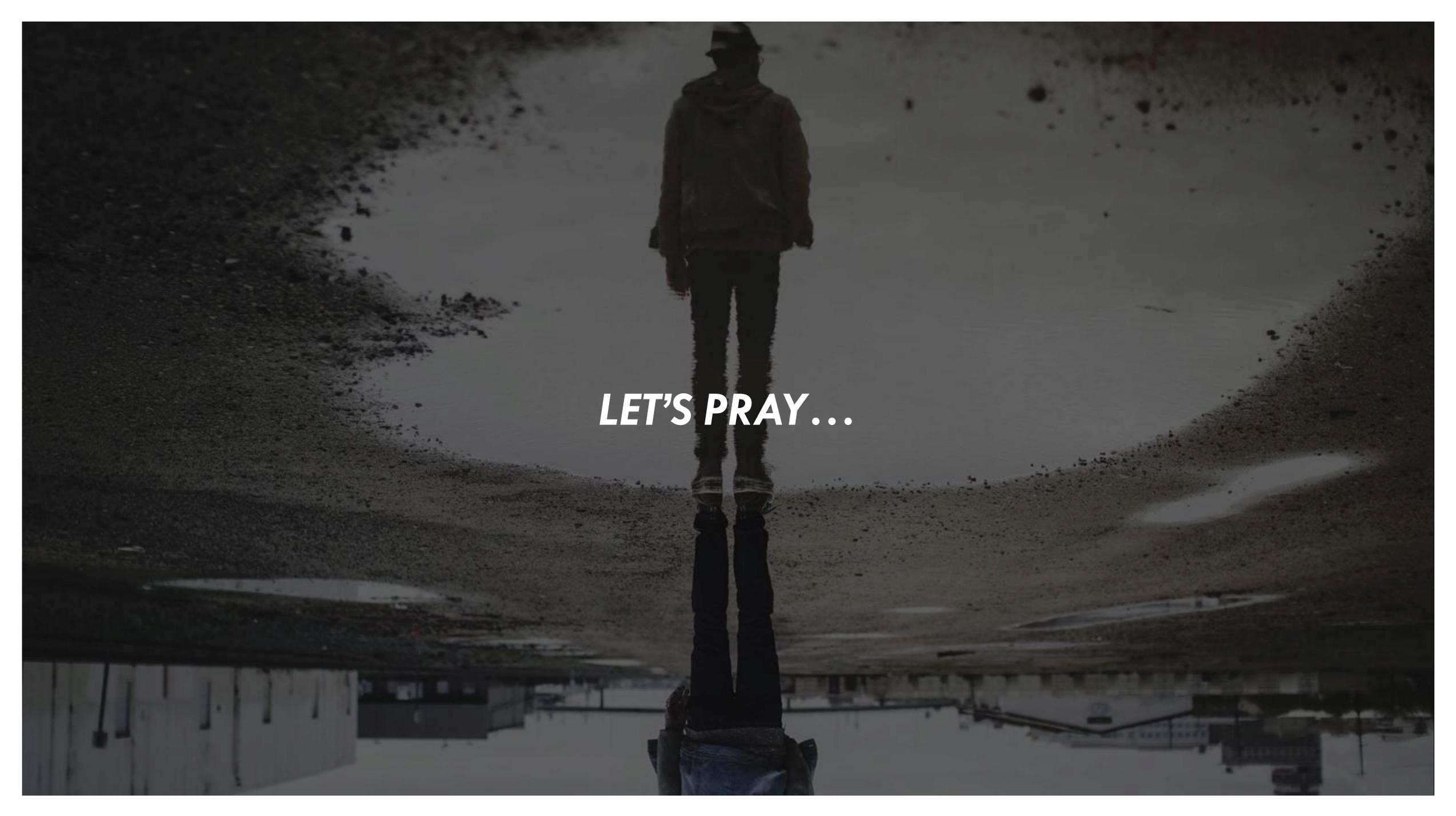
Consider what could be going on for the other person.

Trust God for the outcomes we can't control:

Leave space for God to protect and defend.

Know God's perfect love:

God's love gives us resources to love others... and perspective.

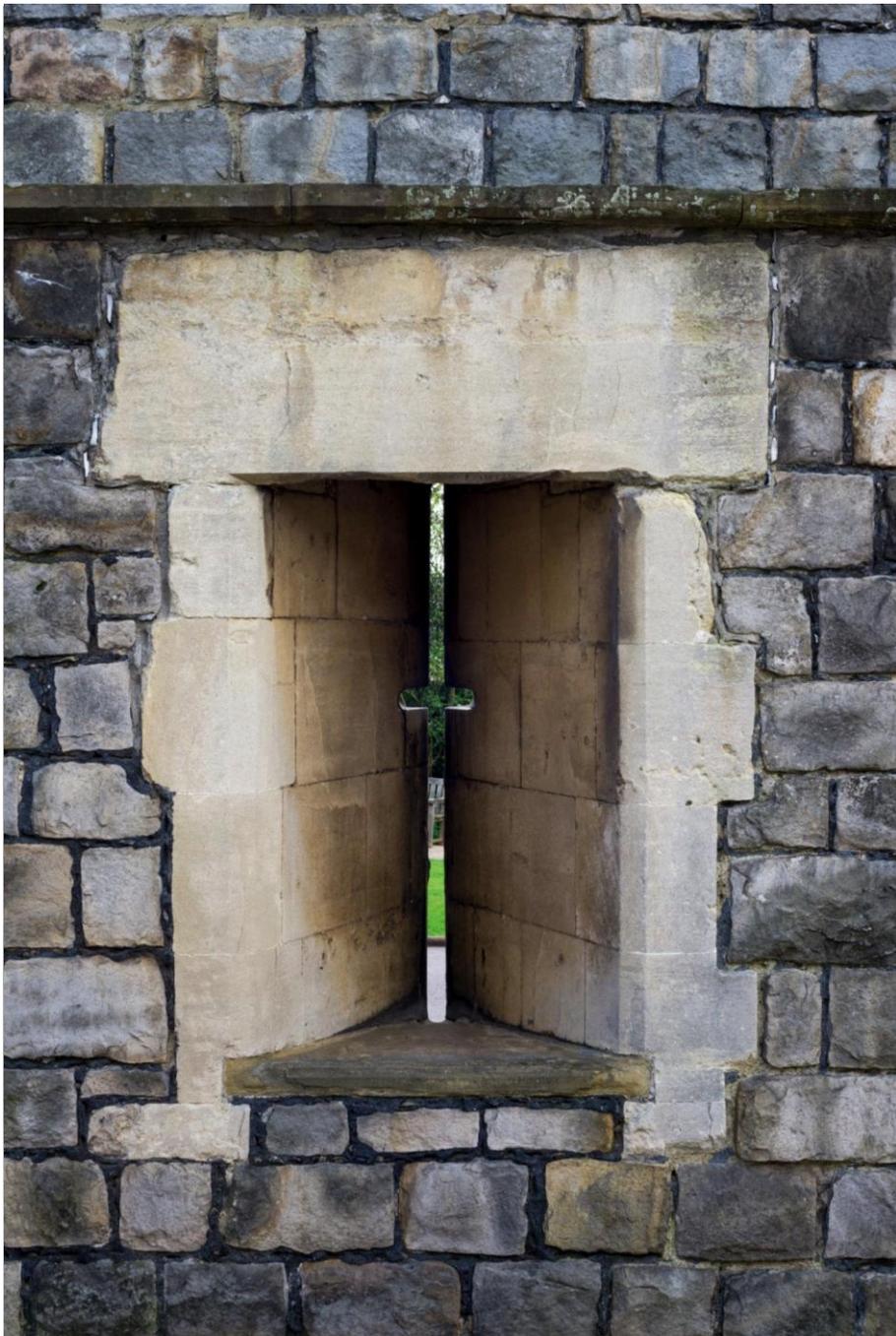
A dark, moody photograph of a person standing on a large puddle of water. The person is wearing a hat and a jacket, and their reflection is clearly visible in the water below them. The background shows a dark, textured surface, possibly a roof or a large wall, with some faint reflections of buildings or structures. The overall atmosphere is somber and contemplative.

LET'S PRAY...



Colossians 1:21-22

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,



Dear Jesus, thank you for not treating us like enemies,
though that is what our actions deserve.

Thank you for dying on the cross for our sin and
shortcomings...your body broken and your blood spilt for
us, so that we can receive forgiveness.

We believe in you Jesus...your perfection in life, the taking
on of our sin in your death and your victory over sin and
death through the resurrection.

We love you. Amen.