

# *Pray*

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EXT. ALLEY - DAY

JIMMY BLACKWELL, a homeless black man in his late thirties consumed by living on the streets, is leaning upside the building revealing a half dozen different liquor bottles. Talking to himself as he attempts to sort through his shopping cart.

JIMMY

All my merchandise is in top  
condition.

Sorting through a bunch of items, trash

JIMMY (CONT'D)

The best money can buy.

Shouting out loud to passersby on the street.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

They just don't know!

A young man walks up to Jimmy. It's ARMOND, a neighborhood kid, a familiar face to Jimmy. They've built a relationship in the past two years.

ARMOND

Why are you always screaming at  
people?

Jimmy takes a swig of liquor and starts pulling up his trousers, he then for a moment pauses before making a statement.

JIMMY

What? Because people don't care! So  
I want to be acknowledged.... I am  
standing here! A human being!

A white male wearing a black suit walks by the two.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

You look like police! Have a nice  
day Sir.

He stares at the man, then he smiles. Jimmy continues to speak to Armond

ARMOND

I'm sure people see you! And besides that you're one of the smartest black men in this neighborhood.

JIMMY

Little man I let so many people down! Most of all myself. I started partying and having fun and never stopped, now just look at me!

\*

Armond reaches in his backpack and pulls out a fast food bag.

ARMOND

Here... something for you I bought two extra burgers today. I don't have any money but this fifty cents

Jimmy grabs Armond by the shoulder looking him directly in his eyes

JIMMY

Please take heed and listen. Man, stay in school, get your education. That's the only tool you have that no one can take from you.

Armond rolls his eye's

ARMOND

You sound like my momma! Why can't I be like Kobe or LeBron James?

JIMMY

Yeah those guys have skills and are pretty lucky to be where they are! There's a lot of undiscovered talent out there.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET - MINI MART - NIGHT

Jimmy comes out of an ALL NIGHT MINI-MART with a bag of food. He walks down the street and suddenly two young males come out of no where. They turn towards Jimmy, knocking the bag of items out of his hands. Then we see a man running. He has a pistol in one hand. Jimmy watches the man run past and disappear into the darkness.

YOUNG MALE #1

Move out the way you old piece of  
shit. And forget what you saw.

\*

Waving his pistol at Jimmy.

CUT BACK TO:

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Jimmy is looking at church members as they enter church, he walks up to a woman standing like she's waiting for somebody

JIMMY

Excuse me sister can you possibly  
spare some change?

CYNTHIA turns to Jimmy.

CYNTHIA

I don't give my money to men, but  
I'll pray for you.

JIMMY

For they love to stand and pray in  
the synagogues and at the street  
corners, that they may be seen by  
others. Truly, I say to you, they  
have received their reward. But  
when you pray, go into your room  
and shut the door and pray to your  
Father who is in secret. And your  
Father who sees in secret will  
reward you.

CYNTHIA

You sound like you been here  
before? Hold on... you look very  
familiar!

JIMMY

Maybe I do, maybe I don't

CYNTHIA

Yeah! I remember you! You're Miss  
Davis' grandson! Excuse but what  
happened to you! \*

Jimmy offers her a small smile.

JIMMY

He, who is without sin among you,  
let him be the first to throw a  
stone. I wanted no one to worry any  
about me'and my discretion and  
sins. \*

Cynthia turns away. Jimmy is now standing in front of her.

CYNTHIA

That's really not my concern, Mr.  
Man...

JIMMY

It's Jimmy Blackwell

CYNTHIA

That's right now I remember. You  
probably remember me as Cynthia or  
just Cynt(cent)

Cynthia looks down suddenly. On the sidewalk in front of her  
she sees a fresh product of waste from a dog.

CYNTHIA (CONT'D)

How do you live like this?

With a smirk on his face.

JIMMY

I manage to stay out people's business, so they will stay out of mine!

CYNTHIA

You know the church can and will help you! And there's plenty of programs out there.

JIMMY

Why would I ask for help? When my grandmother died no one helped me then... and she was a member of this congregation for over thirty years.

(CONT'D)

Do you know what perjury is?

CYNTHIA

Yea! And

JIMMY

When you lie.

CYNTHIA

What do you mean I loved your grandma! I was just a kid.

FLASH BACK

THE TWO AS YOUNGSTER (CYNTHIA) AND JIMMY)PLAYING IN THEIR CHURCH CLOTHES.

(CONT'D)

"Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom  
come, your will be done, on earth  
as it is in heaven. Give us this  
day our daily bread, and forgive us  
our debts, as we also have forgiven  
our debtors. And lead us not into  
temptation, but deliver us from  
evil.

EXT. SIDE STREET - EARLY MORNING-DAY

Jimmy walks across the street, the smell of fresh baked bread, fills the air as he talks to himself while counting change.

JIMMY

I have just enough for a beer and something to eat. Maybe I can just beg for the rest.

A young man approaches Jimmy as he gets closer, he jesters for a hand out.

JIMMY

Say do you think you can spare some change so I can get something to eat my young brother?

Across the street, a ragged transient, strolls over.

DEACON WRIGHT

Sure, no problem. Here's something for you sir.

JIMMY

What this?

As he open his hand to see what it is, to his dismay it's a business card, with a five dollar bill.

DEACON WRIGHT

Check us out! If you tried everything else!

He focuses on the business card! It's from some church, it has the address for Deacon Wright.

JIMMY

Ain't that a bitch! First remove the speck from your own eye, and you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

INT. LIQUOR STORE

Jimmy enters the store, the cashier quickly pulls the change cup back out of sight. \*

STORE OWNER

Seriously... I hope you have money? I don't have time for your antics today.

Looking at the store clerk with disgust.

JIMMY

I got money man. Back off! \*

STORE OWNER

I meant no harm! But just look at you.

From the back of the store, a younger man appears pushing a broom.

SECOND STORE CLERK

Don't you want a better life for yourself. Without all this street bulshit? Man... we have a black man as president! This country is a great place... \*

As they stop and turn towards each other.

JIMMY

And how's that suppose to help me? \*

The store clerk shakes his head in disgust.

SECOND STORE CLERK

You're not listening, that's the problem!

Jimmy walks to the counter placing two beers and small box of crackers. Yelling back towards the second clerk

JIMMY

You been here how long?



SECOND STORE CLERK

2 years! What's that suppose to mean.

JIMMY

My point exactly, just finish sweeping, and leave me the hell alone

STORE OWNER

That will be \$5.95 Cents

Jimmy looks shocked for a brief second, eye balling everything in the store, but particularly the Lotto poster.

JIMMY

Mmm...Give me one of those Lotto tickets!

\*

FIRST STORE CLERK

Which one do you want?

JIMMY

Any one, it don't make a damn bit of difference anyway

The first store clerk reaches over to the Lotto machine to tear of Lotto ticket.

EXT. NIGHT ALLEY WAY NEAR CHURCH

Jimmy is sitting upside the building totally high. You can hear gun shots from the next block over, Jimmy is disheveled and nervous looking like he's having withdrawals. Meanwhile there's a lot of commotion, police sirens and helicopters, he then drops to his knees.

\*

\*

THREE WEEKS LATER.

EXT. SUNDAY FRONT OF CHURCH

A luxury car pulls in front of the church and parks. A strikingly handsome male in a sharp black suit exits the vehicle. He looks strangely familiar.

The church's new deacon, DEACON WRIGHT and Armond are staring silently and without expressions. Over to the right Cynthia does nothing but stare.

CYNTHIA

Who is that?

Cynthia continues to stare.

Deacon Wright and the Armond briskly approach the male!

DEACON WRIGHT

Excuse me sir you look very familiar... have we met!

As soon as he asked the question, he recalls the familiar face.

ARMOND

Jimmy? What happened to you? You sure are fly!

DEACON WRIGHT

I concur to say the least, you clean up very nicely! Not to be in your personal business, but what happened to you?

Smiling while flashing back to the series of events which led up to this moment.

FLASH BACK \*

INT. - MINI MART - DAY \*

Jimmy is buying a beer and checking the Lotto numbers. He's won the 5 million dollar drawing. Everyone is yelling and screaming. \*

CUT TO: \*

INT. - LOTTO HEADQUARTERS - DAY \*

Jimmy is taking a picture for the press with the giant check. \*

CUT TO: \*

EXT. - LARGE HOUSE - DAY \*

Jimmy is shaking hands with a realtor in front of a house  
with sold on the for sale sign. \*

CUT TO: \*

INT. - LARGE HOUSE - NIGHT \*

Jimmy is sitting at his desk writing. \*

CUT TO: \*

EXT. - MAILBOX - NIGHT \*

Jimmy is dropping a few envelopes in the mailbox \*

CUT TO: \*

INT. - CHURCH - DAY \*

Deacon Wright is looking at a check with a shocked  
expression. \*

CUT TO: \*

INT. - ARMOND'S ROOM - NIGHT \*

Armond is reading a letting with a big smile on his face. \*

CUT TO: \*

JIMMY \*

I took your advise!

Deacon Wright looking on in shock!

DEACON WRIGHT

What's that?

JIMMY

I prayed!