

A Call to Consecrated Intercessory Prayer

Leviticus 20:7 **Consecrate** yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I *am* the LORD your God. *Into* the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.

A word came forth this weekend that our survival and blessing was dependant on us setting aside times of consecrated prayer. I believe that applies to us individually as well as corporately. I took it to heart and wondered with our busy lives if we really set aside time for prayer to the Lord. I looked up the word consecrate. **The Old Testament definition means to dedicate, renew and inaugurate. The New Testament means to devote and sanctify.** In obedience to this I am going to set up dedicated times for intercessory prayer.

Revelations:

- Some people are doing it in their own strength ~ We can't do it in our own strength
- Some people don't pray that much ~ That has to change if we want His blessing
- Intercessory prayer is not convenient ~ It was not meant to be
- I need it ~ We all need it
- I don't like to sacrifice ~ Intercessory prayer requires putting God as #1 Priority
- Nobody will interrupt you at 4:00 am ~ They did bother Jesus

The Promise:
Matthew 6:33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

I. To stand in the gap Ezekiel 22:30

Ezekiel was a prophet of the Babylonian captivity. Daniel was in Babylon nine years before Ezekiel arrived. The context of this scripture is where Ezekiel names the sins of Jerusalem, idolatry, adultery, going after dishonest gain, etc. In the midst of their sin verse 30 says,

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

A. For others "before me". Many prayers are for ourselves, but the emphasis of intercession is for other people

Standing in the gap is a metaphor for committed intercession. There is a gap between God and man that an intercessor tries to repair and bring restoration

1. Gap: A break or breach, especially a gap in a wall. The walls of the city protected a city in ancient times. The only way in or out of a city was through the gates unless there was a breach in the wall. An intercessor makes a wall in front of the gap or hole in the wall. He stands between the enemy and the gap. This allows the gap to be repaired. When Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem they would often work on the walls with a shovel on one hand and a sword on the other. They would make a wall and repair the breach. He would stand there until the building process was completed. We need to stand in the gap for others until their victory is won.
 - a. Everyone has gaps, holes that the enemy has put in our walls of protection. Intercession puts a wall between the enemy and those holes and allows there to be a restoration. Israel was in sin, backslidden and was in need of an intercessor to stand in the gap. Many today need intercessors
 - b. When we see weaknesses in each other that is a gap. **That is our Que - to pray for others.** When you see weaknesses in your spouse you need to pray for them. when we see weaknesses in others we need to say, "They have a gap. Time to pray"

II. Reformation needed: I want to be apart of permanent change

Reformation (Reform):

1. **improve something by removing faults:** to change and improve something by correcting faults, removing inconsistencies and abuses, and imposing modern methods or values; applies also to the social or political sphere by removing fraud.
2. **get rid of unacceptable habits:** to adopt a more acceptable way of life and mode of behavior or persuade or force somebody else to do so
3. **reorganization and improvement:** the reorganization and improvement of something, especially a political institution or system, that is considered to be faulty, ineffective, or unjust
4. **character improvement:** the adoption by somebody of a more acceptable way of life

Revival sounds temporary ~ Reformation sounds permanent

Visitation sounds temporary ~ Habitation sounds permanent

What is needed:

- **Intercession requires commitment. One of the reasons there are few intercessors is because so few Christians have a day devotional time for Jesus. They barely pray for themselves much less for other people.**
- **We have been guilty of talking about prayer, instead of living a life of prayer.**

Ezekiel 13:4-6

⁴ O Israel, your prophets are like foxes in the deserts. ⁵ You have not gone up into the gaps to build a wall for the house of Israel to stand in battle on the day of the LORD. ⁶ They have envisioned futility and false divination, saying, 'Thus says the LORD!' But the LORD has not sent them; yet they hope that the word may be confirmed.

➤ **We need to see true conversions to God from people who want to know God personally, not just people that want to know about Him**

The promise of His presence.

- ☞ I don't want God to visit us; I want Him to dwell among us and stay.
- ☞ He inhabits the praises of his people.
Psalm 22:3 **But You are holy, O You Who dwell in [the holy place where] the praises of Israel [are offered].**
- ☞ Two or three are gathered together in their midst I am there.
Matthew 18:20 **"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."**