

Introduction:

- I want to talk tonight about setting our trajectory in prayer. How do we hit the mark when we pray?
- Caleb and I were at the archery range in Wickham park. And there are multiple shooting alleys at different ranges. We start up close 20 yards. But when it came to 60 yards you appeared to be shooting at the moon. Because the bow had to be raised so that the trajectory of the arrow would hit its mark.
- *“I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn’t have to destroy the land, but I found no one.”* (Ezekiel 22:30, NLT)
- *“And He saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no intercessor [no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right]; therefore His own arm brought Him victory, and His own righteousness [having the Spirit without measure] sustained Him.”* (Isaiah 59:16, AMP)

I. The Power of the Gap

- A. I (God) looked for someone to stand in the gap. Gap - Heb. *peres* - breach. It is a hole in the wall. Ezekiel is letting us know that there is a hole in the wall because of neglect or a full on attack that caused the breach. Unless this is repaired the invader will always have easy access.
1. The verb is used some fifty times in the OT, often in a military or disaster situation.
Hamilton, V. P. (1999). Archer, Harris, Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 737). Chicago: Moody Press.
 2. The word is also associated with malicious and destructive behavior. I.e. if you have a hole in the wall or an open door anything malicious or destructive can come in.
 3. So what Ezekiel is seeing is something that is not good.
- B. What is the power of this gap?
1. Gap means separation. The rich man in hell looked across the chasm to see Abraham. The chasm represented a separation. Separation from God. Separation from each other.
 2. Gap means destruction. as it pertains to a wall. If there is a gap in the wall. Then the things that were designed to be kept out have opportunity to come in.
 - a) We know from God’s Word that when Adam sinned he and Eve were banished from the Garden. This banishment resulted in separation from God, separation from Life, and separation from all that God had created for them.
 - b) Death entered in. Destruction entered in. Sickness entered in. Trouble entered in. Pain entered in. Poverty entered in.
 3. Gap means living under constant threat, or in fear. Fear is one of the ways that the gap controls lives.

- C. The power of this gap is the eternal separation humanity from God and the eternal access of Satan to that same humanity.
 1. Unless that gap is closed God has to destroy the land. Ezek.
 2. There was no mediator of truth and righteousness/rightness.
 3. The gap required God to act judicially and to punish sin.

II. The Power of The Mediator

- A. God was looking for an intercessor/a mediator to stand in the gap. When we hear those words we have to ask, "What is an intercessor?" What is God looking for?
 1. An intercessor is one who stands or passes in between. IE. One who would close the gap.
 2. Intercede - Webster: to go or pass between; to act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend; to mediate or make intercession.
 3. Mediate - means to be between two extremes. It is what lawyers do daily in our court system. They intercede for clients. They stand between the client and the judge. It also happens in business offices, classrooms, homes.
- B. We need someone who would make intercession for us. Jesus! So now we have to ask, "What is intercession?"
 1. Intercession - "intercession isn't prayer but intercessory prayer is prayer. Intercession is something that a person does, that he or she can do in prayer." Dutch Sheets. Ie. Agreement is not prayer but there is a prayer of agreement.
 2. Intercession is something that Jesus does but it is not prayer. He did pray intercessory prayer. But intercession is not prayer, it is something that Jesus does. What does he do?
 3. Jesus re-presented God to us! *If you have seen me you have seen the Father.* God desired us to know Him and we desire to be known by Him.
 - a) *""God is not a mortal like me, so I cannot argue with him or take him to trial. If only there were a mediator between us, someone **who could bring us together.**" (Job 9:32-33, NLT)*
 - b) Jesus, therefore, lives to make intercession. Jesus' intercession is not a prayer he prayed but a work of mediation he did.
 - c) *Jesus is not praying for us he is interceding for us so we can pray. This is what 'asking in His name' means.*
 - (1) *"For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus."* (1 Timothy 2:5, NLT)
 - (2) *He is our advocate with the Father 1 Jn 2:1 He present each of us as righteous to the Father. "Then you will ask in my name. I'm not saying I will ask the Father on your behalf,"* (John 16:26, NLT)
- C. We need an advocate that does two things:
 1. connects us with God

2. separates us from Satan
- D. Our Advocate has already defeated death, hell, and grave. If you have destroyed death, hell and grave then know that sickness, poverty, destruction, separation and trouble are already defeated. We need this type of Mediator! He connects us with the Father and empowers us to overcome the evil one!

III. The Power of the Church in Intercession

- A. God is looking for a people (the church) to re-present Jesus to this generation and to re-present Jesus to the Father.
 1. Our prayers of intercession are always and only an extension of His work or intercession.
 2. IE. I ask the Father to extend mercy and bring salvation to the city of Viera. The Father could reply, "How can I do that? They are sinners." My reply, "Because Jesus intercede/mediated for them, Father! I am asking based on what He did. He is in heaven I am here so I am asking for your Kingdom to come based totally on what Jesus did.
 3. "A biblical definition of intercessory prayer: it is an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His body, the church, whereby we mediate between God and humanity for the purpose of reconciling the world to Him or between Satan and humanity for the purpose of enforcing the victory of Calvary." Dutch Sheets p. 42 Intercessory Prayer. Intercession creates a meeting! A meeting between us and God over the souls, or breakthrough we carry to Him.
- B. The Holy Spirit sets the trajectory.
 1. When Jesus began His ministry, it was the presence of the Holy Spirit that set the trajectory of his praying and ministry. Trajectory simply speaks of a path, progression or line of development in which Jesus is leading us to pray.
 2. The Holy Spirit lead him into the wilderness. He overcame in the wilderness. Came out of the wilderness in the power of the Spirit. He immediately began to represent the Father to the people.
 3. If we really believed we were ambassadors of God we would have no trouble believing that we are operating in His authority and not ours.