



I'M STANDING IN THE GAP

S E R M O N G U I D E

I'm Standing In The Gap

Ezekiel 22:30-31

INTRODUCTION

God calls each and every one of us to stand in the gap whenever, however, and wherever there is a need in the world, in the community, or in our families. Where there is injustice in the world, we are to oppose it. Where there is pain and suffering in our community, we are to confront it. And whatever threatens the spiritual, physical, and mental stability of our families, we must stand against it. God is looking for bold, courageous, and spirit-filled believers who will stand in the gap for the less fortunate, minorities, and the downtrodden – those who are often forgotten, ignored, and pushed to the margins of society. Such a position in the church is called being an intercessor. Intercession entails some act on behalf of another. It could be an act of advocacy, an action of meditation, and most importantly, it can be and is often in scripture an act of prayer. Throughout the Word of God, the Lord calls and challenges those of us who claim to be concerned about the well-being of the world to stand against the forces of death and darkness that seek to destroy what God has established.

KEY POINTS

1. Standing Before God and With God

The language in our key passage describes the role the High Priest played, and also portrays the problem, cited by God, that there was no one to be found who could fulfill the role of High Priest. It's not that no one *could*, but that no one *would* take the role. They were able, but not willing.

You know how it is, between work and taking care of your own needs, you don't have time to intercede for others. But God is looking for someone willing to forsake personal comforts and conveniences so their family could be stronger, their community could be better, and their world could be safer. The prophet says that when we stand in the gap for the broken, we are also standing before God and with God. For God is always with us, whenever and wherever brokenness is present in the world. And the good news for intercessors is that there's a blessing in that brokenness, and the blessing is that God will be with you in the brokenness.

2. Standing Up for the People

When you read the text, you see a long list of sins and immoral deeds committed by the people of the land: violence against women, murder, idolatry, corruption, and injustice. If we're being honest, it would be difficult to pray for people who took part in such terrible actions. It's easy to pray for people who fit your framework of what is morally and ethically right, but it's another thing to pray for people who in your mind are living outside the will of God.

NOTES

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For so many of us, our excuse for not praying for people is because of the knowledge we have of what people have done. We think that our knowledge of what people have done is a pretext to disqualify them. For instance, it's one thing to pray for your colleague when you know they go to church and are faithful to God, but it's another thing to pray for her when she's being unfaithful to her husband. To be an intercessor, you have to pray for people, even when you know what they're doing isn't right. And the only way you'll do that is if you remember that you aren't morally and spiritually perfect yourself.

3. Standing in the Gap Saves Lives

In verses 30 and 31, we are able to deduce what was going to happen without these pivotal and crucial intercessors in the community of faith. The absence of an intercessor for the people is sure to bring destruction and judgment for disobedience. God's appeal for someone to build the wall is an appeal for someone to partner in the protection of the people from the consequences of their destructive behavior.

God uses intercessors to be the moral voice amid a people that have gone astray and to be a voice of healing to those who have been wounded by the misdeeds of others. With that in mind, we should have the mentality of, "If you see something, do something." What you do, or don't do, could make all the difference for someone else.

NOTES

No Limits with Pastor Delman

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Would you consider yourself an intercessor?
2. Do you pray for people who aren't living according to God's will, or do you find yourself only praying for people who fit within your moral framework?
3. Who can you start praying for that you haven't been praying for already?
