

## Prayer is Representing Jesus

John 20:21

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

John 14:12

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Introduction:

1. We have looked at the "Necessity of Prayer."

- a. God made Adam and gave Adam authority over the earth.
- b. So complete was God limiting Himself that He does not work on the earth without man.
- c. We found that
  - i. God and humans, for better or worse, doing it together
  - ii. God needed a race of people through whom to work...The Israelites
  - iii. God needed prophets
  - iv. God needed judges
  - v. God needed a human Messiah
  - vi. God needed human hands to heal
  - vii. God needed human voices to speak
  - viii. God needed human feet to go.
  - ix. God needs faithful men and women.
  - x. This is accomplished through our prayer and our actions, which is why we must pray.

2. Today I will minister about Intercession

- a. Intercession is not prayer, but intercession is something that a person can do in prayer.
- b. Intercessory Prayer is prayer, but Intercession is not necessarily prayer.
- c. Think about it in these terms

i. Agreement is not prayer, but there is a prayer of Agreement.

ii. Faith is not prayer, but there is a prayer of faith.

**Note:** So, let us look at Intercession so we can be more effective in Intercessory Prayer.

3. We are going to study Intercession and Intercessory Prayer in the context of the following.

a. God's plan for human kind at the time of the Creation

b. The disruption of that plan by the Fall, (and)

c. God's solution.

4. As we look at Intercession in these three settings, it will help us to understand Intercession, and it will accomplish three things.

a. It will help us understand the concept of intercession so we can understand Intercessory Prayer.

b. It will enable us to see Christ's role as The Intercessor, and "What we do in intercessory prayer will always and only be an extension of His Intercessory Work"

c. With this kind of knowledge, our prayer life can and will be more effective.

5. The two Scriptures used in our text reveals two things.

a. John 20:21...Jesus was sent by the Father, and we are sent by Jesus.

As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

b. John 20:21...Since we are sent, we should go forth knowing Christ is with us through the work of the Holy Ghost, which means that we can live in peace (serenity, contentment) because Christ does not leave us alone, but goes with us.

c. John 14:12...Those who believe on Christ shall do the works He did and even greater works, because Christ went to the Father and the Holy Ghost was sent back to empower us to continue the work Christ began here on earth.

## I. Jesus as Intercessor

### A. Defining Intercession

1. Intercession means to Intercede

a. To go or pass between

b. To act between parties with a view to reconcile those who differ or contend

c. To mediate

2. Mediate means

a. Between two extremes

b. Intercede between parties as the equal friend of each

c. To negotiate between persons at variance with a view to reconciliation

d. To mediate a peace

3. The concept of intercession can be summarized

a. As mediation

b. As going between

c. Pleading for another

d. Representing one party to another for legal situations, but it is not limited to just legal situations.

**Note:** We will look at it later, but this is what Jesus did for us, and through Christ it is what we are to do for others.

4. Intercession happens

a. Daily in our courts with lawyers interceding for clients

b. Daily in contractual meetings with attorneys representing one party to another

c. Daily in offices and business meetings with secretaries and associates acting as a “go between” as they represent one party to another.

5. Intercession involves

a. Delegation

b. Authority

c. Intercession is Representation which means to represent, “re-present, or present again.”

6. Let us view this in the light of Creation and the Fall

- a. Adam was supposed to represent God on planet Earth
  - i. Manage the earth for God
  - ii. Rule the earth for God
  - iii. Govern the earth for God
- b. God told Adam what He wanted and Adam re-presented God to the rest of the earth.
- c. Adam was a “go-between” for God
- d. Adam was God’s intercessor mediator on the earth.

#### B. Jesus Represented God to Man

- 1. The 1<sup>st</sup> Adam failed
- 2. We needed another Adam

**Note** 1st Corinthians 15:22...For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Note:** Man needed another Intercessor, another Representative of God. Adam failed, So Jesus came as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam. God became human so men could become the Sons of God.

- 3. Christ came to re-present God on the earth.
  - a. He became the intercessor (mediator) going between and re-presenting God to mankind
  - b. He exegeted (clarified, explained) God for us as we see in John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. (Ce...has shown us what God is like.)

**Note:** The Word “Declared” in John 1:18 from the Greek means “to declare, to unfold, to show”

- 4. Jesus
  - a. Drew man a picture of God as we see in John 14:9

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

- b. Who was God, Came to the earth to mediate, intercede, and represent Man who was to be God’s intercessor, mediator, or representative on earth.

i. The Scriptures in John 1:1-5 show us the Deity of Jesus

1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2) The same was in the beginning with God. 3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

ii. Notice what these Scriptures say about Jesus

- 1) Jesus was the Word, and thus Jesus was God
- 2) Jesus was in the Beginning
- 3) Jesus was involved in creating all things, thus Jesus was involved when Adam, the First Representative of God was molded from the dust of the earth
- 4) This Jesus came to Represent God to Man by bringing Light into a World of Darkness.

C. Jesus also represented Man to God

1. Jesus is the ultimate, final, and only go-between

- a. Jesus is “The Apostle” which represents God to man.
- b. Jesus is the “High Priest” which represents man to God.

**Note** Hebrews 3:1

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;”

c. Jesus is the one that Job needed in Job 9:32-33

i. KJV

32) For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. 33) Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.

ii. NLT...

32) God is not a mortal like me, so I cannot argue with him or take him to trial. 33) If only there were a mediator between us, someone who could bring us together. 34) The mediator could make God stop beating me, and I would no longer live in terror of his punishment. 35) Then I could speak to him without fear, but I cannot do that in my own strength.

d. Jesus' intercession was not a prayer He prayed, but a work of mediation that He did

2. Jesus is still our intercessor.

a. His work was complete, but because of who we are, He is still working as our Advocate and Intercessor.

i. 1st John 2:1

1) KJV

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2) NLT

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.

ii. Jesus is guaranteeing our access to the Father

iii. Jesus is guaranteeing our benefits of redemption

b. Jesus is not asking or petitioning the Father for us, but we are to do our own asking, according to Jesus in John 16:26

At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you:

c. Well, we ask, how is Jesus mediating or interceding for us if He is not praying for us.

i. Remember. His work on earth was intercessory or a representation of God to Man (and) Man to God

ii. Jesus' work now is still intercessory or representative

1) He is not mediating or acting as a go between for the purpose of clearing us of charges that are against us, because He already did that when He redeemed us from sin.

2) He is presenting each of us to the Father as Righteous and as one of His own.

a) Look at this example

We approach the throne, and Jesus is always there saying something like this:

Father, \_\_\_\_\_ is here to speak with you. He is not coming on his own merits or righteousness, he is here based on *Mine*. He is here in My Name. I am sure You remember that I have gone between You and \_\_\_\_\_ and provided him with access to You. He has a few things to ask You.

Listen to what the Father would say in response:

“Of course I remember, Son. You have made \_\_\_\_\_ one of Ours. Because he came through You, \_\_\_\_\_ is always welcome here. “

The Father then looks at us and says:

“Come boldly to My throne of grace, Son, and make your request known.”

b) Jesus is not praying for us, but He is interceding for us so we can pray which is what Jesus meant when He told us to “ask in His name.”

d. After Adam fell, Man needed two things.

1<sup>st</sup>. Man needed someone to

1) Go between him and God

2) Reconcile him to God

2<sup>nd</sup>. Man needed someone to

1) Go between him and satan

2) Separate him from satan

3. Let us look at this two-fold work of Intercession

1<sup>st</sup>. Man needed to be united to God and disunited from satan,

2<sup>nd</sup>. Man needed his headship re-established and satan’s headship broken.

4. Jesus did the two fold work of intercession

a. Jesus went between God and man and reconciled us to the Father.

b. Jesus went between satan and man and broke satan’s hold on man.

5. This work of Christ is the redemptive work of Intercession and it is complete.

a. In the legal sense of man’s redemption, Jesus in the One and Only Intercessor according to 1st Timothy 2:5...

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

- b. Therefore, Our Prayers of Intercession are always and only an Extension of Jesus' work of intercession.

**Note** these words of the song "Let me touch Him"

Oh to be His Hand Extended, Reaching out to the Oppressed. Let me Touch Him. Let me touch Jesus, so that others may know and be blessed.

- c. God will not honor any Intercession except Jesus, and as we understand that our intercession is an Extension of Jesus, then that makes our Prayers of Intercession more Powerful.

- i. As you intercede, you are an Extension of Jesus.
- ii. Let us go back to our Conversation with God in the throne room.
- 1) Jesus told us to "come boldly before Him and make our Petitions known."

2) Here is our Conversation:

a) I ask the Father to extend mercy and bring Salvation to my \_\_\_\_\_

b) The Father says:

How can I do this? He is a sinner. He worships the gods of the flesh and has rejected me which is really worshipping satan. Besides, he does not even want me to save him. He never asks me for Salvation.

c) I respond:

Because Jesus interceded or mediated for them, Father. I am asking based on what Jesus did, and He needs a human on earth to ask for Him because He is in heaven now. So, as Jesus taught me, I am asking for Your Kingdom to come and Your Will to be done in my \_\_\_\_\_'s heart. I am asking for someone to be sent to him. I am asking this for Jesus and through Jesus, and I am asking You to do it based entirely on the redemptive work Jesus has already done.

d) The Father responds:

Right Answer! You heard the man, Gabriel. What are you waiting for.

II. We are Distributors for God (Representatives)

A. Prayers of Intercession are an extension of Jesus' work of intercession.

1. We distribute and do not have to produce because Jesus has already produced.

2. We do not have to produce anything

- a. Not reconciliation
- b. Not deliverance
- c. Not victory.

3. But we distribute

- a. Reconciliation
- b. Deliverance
- c. Victory

**Note:** Just like the disciples did with the loaves and fishes. Jesus produced, and they distributed in Matthew 14:17-19

B. Listen to this

- 1. The Producer simply wants to distribute through us.
- 2. The Intercessor wants to intercede through us.
- 3. The Mediator wants to mediate through us.
- 4. The Representative wants to represent through us.
- 5. The Go-Between wants to go between through us.
- 6. The Victor wants His victory enforced through us.
- 7. The Minister of reconciliation has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

**Note** 2nd Corinthians 5:18-19

18) And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

- 8. We now represent Him in His representation ministry.
- 9. God continues to incarnate (personify, embody) His Redemptive purposes in us

**Note** the following

i. We do not deliver anyone.

1) We do not reconcile anyone to God.

2) We do not defeat the enemy.

ii. That work is already done.

1) Reconciliation is complete.

2) Deliverance is complete

3) Victory is complete

4) Salvation is complete

5) Intercession is complete.

6) It is Finished! Done!

iii. And Yet

1) We must ask for release of these things

2) We must ask for the application of these things

### III. Intercessory Prayer defined and Illustrated

A. Intercessory Prayer is an extension of the ministry of Jesus through His Body, the Church, whereby we mediate

1. Between God and man for the purpose of reconciling the world to Him,

2. Or, we go between Satan and man for the purpose of enforcing the victory of Calvary.

3. Jesus needs a human on the earth that He can Represent Himself through just as the Father was represented through Jesus.

4. Who will be His hands extended?

**Note** John 20:21...

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

5. The Church, you and I, are to be the representative of Jesus.

B. A Representative is a “Sent One”

1. “Sent ones” have authority, as long as they represent the “Sender,” so I ask, “Who wants to be a “Sent One?””
2. Remember that the importance is not on the “Sent One” but on the “Sender”
  - a. The setting of the “conditions” and the “ability” to carry out the conditions or enforce the conditions are the responsibility of the “Sender,” not the “Sent One.”
    - i. Ambassadors from one nation to another is a “Sent One” who has no authority of their own, but is only authorized to represent “the Authority” of the nation who sent them.
    - ii. We are ambassadors, sent by Jesus, and we represent “The Authority” of the “Jesus” who sent us, for He carries the authority of the One who Sent Him, God
  - b. Therefore, in this plan of God, we operate as the “sent ones” with heaven being God being the Sender who sent Jesus who is now the Sender sending you and I

**Note:** This means we represent a whole lot of power and authority

3. Jesus was a “Sent One.”
  - a. That is why He had authority, which He received from his Father.
  - b. Forty times in the book of John, Jesus mentions the important fact of being sent by the Father, which meant that He was not doing the works, but the Father who sent Him was doing the works as seen in John 14:10 (Nlt)

Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me.

**Note:** I want God to Live in me, and do His work through me, which is why we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit, so the Spirit which empowered Christ can empower us.

4. We are Sent Ones
  - a. Our authority comes from Jesus.
  - b. As we function in this capacity, we function in Jesus’ authority.
  - c. We are not doing the works, He is doing His work through us. (What a relief!)

## 5. Example of Dutch Sheets doing missionary work in Guatemala

- a. God told him while He was praying one day that He wanted Dutch to “Represent Jesus to the people,” “to be Jesus’ voice, hands, feet, ” and he was told to “Do what Jesus would do if He was there in the flesh.” “Represent Him.”
- b. He heard of a little girl tied to a tree because she was crazy.
- c. As He was preaching, a voice told him “to tell the people that you are going to pray for the insane girl that is tied to the tree. Tell them that you are going to do this in the name of this Jesus you have been preaching about. Tell them that through Jesus’ name you are going to break the evil powers controlling her so that when she is free and normal, they can then know that what you are preaching is true. They can believe that the Jesus you are preaching about is who you say He is.
- d. Sheets responded with, "What Did You Say?" “God gave the same instructions.”
- e. God said, "don't you remember what I told you before you left on this trip?" "You are to represent Jesus, and do what He would do." Victory prevailed when He obeyed Jesus.

### Conclusion:

#### 1. Now, look at the Heavenly Pattern

- a. Jesus is the Victor...We are the Enforcers
- b. Jesus is the Redeemer...We are the Releasers
- c. Jesus is the Head...We are the Body

#### 2. Jesus

- a. Set the little girl free
- b. The village turned to Jesus
- c. Jesus prevailed through a “Sent One”
- d. The partnership goes on: God and Humans
  - i. My prayers of intercession releases Christ’s finished work of intercession
  - ii. His work empowers my prayers and My prayers releases His work
  - iii. My prayers extends His: His prayers makes mine effective

iv. My prayers activates His: His prayers makes mine valid.

v. Jesus is the Generator. We are the Distributors.

3. Jesus is Awesome: We are to be His Awesomeites presenting His Awesomeness.

a. We are More than conquerors

b. Christ and Christ...ians changing the world.

c. There are many wounded and hurting individuals “tied to trees”

i. You work with some, they serve you in restaurants, some live next to you, etc

ii. Their chains are alcohol, drugs, abuse, broken dreams, rejection, money, lust, etc

4. Here is Plan A: Supernatural, but ordinary people like you and me are to

a. Wholeheartedly believe in the victory of Calvary, and We are to be convinced that it was complete and final (and)

b. We are to rise up in our roles as “Sent Ones,” “ambassadors,” “authorized Representatives” of the Victorious One, Jesus.

c. Our challenge is not so much to liberate, but To Believe in the Liberator;

d. Our challenge is not to heal, but to Believe in the Healer.

5. Here is Plan B

a. Waste the cross

b. Leave the tormented in their torment

c. Leave the Father to say, “I looked for a man, but found no one”

d. Hear the Son say, “The Laborers! Where are the laborers?”

**Note:** Hey church, Let us untie someone. Let us tell people there is a God who cares. Let us represent. Let us mediate. Let us Intercede.

Who Will touch Jesus That they can be His Hands, Feet, Eyes, Voice extended touching a lost, hurting World.