

INTERCESSION

Last night, at New Song fellowship, Steve Dohse shared an excellent study on intercession. I will try to capture some of those thoughts, and see what else Father might bring to mind.

Steve opened with a question something like this: "Who knows what intercession is?" He then immediately (before anyone could answer) said, "You're wrong!" Next he gave Webster's definition for "intercede":

1. to pass (or, come) between 2. to reconcile 3. to mediate for.

Here, I would add from Random House: to interpose in behalf of one in trouble or difficulty.

My notes from last night are scant, and my memory even worse, but perhaps these few thoughts will be a catalyst for the Spirit within you. Steve then pointed out how all of these definitions are involved in "intercession," in the Scriptures. He said that intercession is basically action, and from the above definitions, I think we can see that.

He pointed out the patterns in the OT, where especially the High Priest did a work of intercession, through the sacrifices, between Israel and God. We were then directed to Heb. 7:25 ,

"Whence, also, He is continuously able (powerful) to be delivering (continuously) setting free, saving, restoring to health) those habitually approaching to God through Him [Who is] always living to be repeatedly interceding on their behalf." (my trans.)

The Gr. for "intercede" is: en + tugchano.

tugchano means, strictly: to hit as a target, especially with an arrow

the prefix en means: in or within

So, we would have, literally: to hit on target within. Now this sounds to me to be just the opposite of "to sin," which literally means: to miss the target. So "intercession" is being right on target in the life of Christ.

The Lexicons give the meanings as: to meet with; to encounter; to appeal to; to intercede for; to address or to converse with; to fall in with; to plead with or for

So, from Heb. 7:25 we see that Jesus is an intercessor on our behalf. Next, Steve took us to Ezk. 22:30 , the classic picture of intercession. I like Young's translation of this,

"And I seek of them a man making a fence, and standing in the breach before Me -- not to destroy it, and I have not found."

The Concordant Version reads,

"And I am seeking from them a man to dike a stone dike and stand in the breach before Me in behalf of the land so as not to ruin it, yet not one do I find."

Steve brought out that being an intercessor can involve delegation to be one; authority may be given; and representation may be involved. These would be involved in structured, corporate or legal situations. Both in Scripture and in the Kingdom, one who is anointed for a function, or who is directed to carry out the Lord's intention, or who is gifted for the benefit of the body would likely involve these concepts. He stressed that one sent into a situation for intercession would represent (and, thus, "present") the one who sent him, or the one who he represents.

Our number 1 example of all of this is Christ. He was delegated to be the Christ via the anointing of the Holy Spirit. All authority in heaven and earth was given to Him. He represent the Father, and presented the true picture of the Father to His people, and to the world. Now, being a part of Christ's body, we are all part of the Christ and thus this delegation, authority and representation applies to us. As He was sent, so sends He us.

Steve then asked the group for examples of other intercessors in Scripture. Some that were suggested were Abraham, in regard to Sodom . But here is one who intercedes out of the relationship that he had with God -- no formal functioning here. There was Moses, but he had the formal position between the people and God, and became, along with Aaron and the priesthood, a type of intercession under the Law.

There was Esther, who, because of her position and relationship to both the king and her people interceded for them. Steve pointed out how David became an intercessor between Israel and Goliath. In both these cases it is obvious how their intercession was action, it was not just prayer.

In the parables of Jesus, the "good Samaritan," being a "friend and neighbor" to the wounded stranger is a classic example of intercession. Steve pointed out how feeding the 5000, etc., was interceding for their needs. In the new covenant, we are a kingdom of priests who are given (in II Cor. 5:18) the ministry (service) of intercession. Paul, in II Cor. 5:20 says,
"On behalf of Christ, therefore, we are ambassadors, as of God continuously, through us, calling alongside to entreat and admonish, we are constantly asking (or: begging), on behalf of Christ, 'Be reconciled to God (or: in God)!'"

We have been made to be "containers of mercy" (Rom. 9:23) who are to relieve others of distress and misery (mercy in action). Intercession is the life, the living, of the body of Christ. We are all called to be intercessors.

Jonathan