**From Wronged to Intercessor**

**Introduction**

To intercede is to (a) plead on another’s behalf or (b) to act as mediator in a dispute. Generally, when we think of interceding we probably think of Moses standing in the gap for the people in Exodus 32 after the gold calf. Or perhaps were David intercedes on behalf of the nation in 2 Samuel 24. We often think of one of the great heroes of the OT who stand in the gap for the nation. However, today I want to focus more on the individual level. Who are we willing to intercede for? Are we willing to intercede for those who have wronged us? How we respond to people is probably along the lines of the following quote.

Chuck Zito: “You treat me good, I’ll treat you better. You treat me bad, I’ll treat you worse.”

***A Biblical example of getting even***

* Samson treated Philistines badly because they mistreated him (Judg 15:3, 7, 11)
* Philistines mistreated Samson because he had mistreated them (Judg 15:10)

**1. Moses, Aaron, and Miriam**

* Numbers 12
* Angry at Moses’ Cushite wife (12:1)
* Lord has spoken through us too (12:2)

Aaron and Miriah are mad at Moses because of his wife and because they think he is getting too much attention. They get mad at him and remind him that they are important too (Aaron is the High Priest and Miriam is a prophetess). The Lord is angry and rebukes them (12:4-8). His anger burns against Miriam and Aaron (12:9). Miriam is struck with leprosy (12:10) and Aaron requests that Moses pray for her (12:11-12). The first time in this account that Moses speaks it is to pray for his sister who has wronged him (12:13).

* Most people can expect their family to stand by them; Moses has had enough problems from the nation and does not need anymore from his family.
* How would you respond when needed to intercede for sister who ridiculed your wife?
* Would we intercede for a sister who attacked us?

**2. Job and his three friends**

* Start off gentle, but affirm Job sinned: Zophar (11:5-6)
* Bildad (8:4): Your children must have sinned
* Eliphaz (15:4-16): Sinned with your mouth
* Eliphaz (22:5-11): Specific sins Job is guilty of
  + You thought you would get away with it (22:13)
* Job (16:2): You are bad comforters

Job is certainly not perfect, and God comes to talk with him at the end of the book (Job 38-41). However, the three friends are told to repent and ask Job to pray for them.

* Job prayed for his 3 friends (42:7-9)
* How would you feel praying for these friends?

**3. Stephen**

* Acts 6-7

Stephen’s story is told in Acts 6-7 and when you read the story we really know very little about the man who became the first martyr for the Lord. As has often been noted his story mirrors Jesus’ in many ways.

* Falsely accused (Acts 6:11-14)
* Defense ignored, gnash teeth (Acts 7:54)
* Stone him (Acts 7:57-58)
* Stephen: Lord, do not hold sin against them (Acts 7:60)
* Would we intercede for people who made up lies about us and killed us?

**4. Jesus, the great example**

* Luke 23:10-11: Herod mocks claims to be king
* Luke 23:18-19: Crowds call for death
* Luke 23:35-39: Every conceivable person was mocking
* Luke 23:34: Father forgive them
* Romans 5:10: Intercedes for us as enemies
* Hebrews 7:23-25: Lives to intercede for us
* 1 John 2:1: If we sin we have advocate with Father

Jesus intercedes for me despite all my sins putting Him on the cross. Jesus continues to intercede for me despite all my sins.

**Lessons**

1) Amazed by God’s grace

2) Amazed by my petty grievances

3) Who do I need to intercede/pray for who has wronged us?