

## THE MAN GOD COULD NOT FIND

**Text: Ezekiel 22:30: I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the GAP before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I FOUND NONE.**

What may seem like a contradiction is, nevertheless, a fact. True, God is everywhere and there is no place He cannot be. Even in hell -- the Bible says God is there in ***Psalms 139:8: "If I ascend up into Heaven, Thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there."***

Yet, my subject to you today is concerning the man God could not find. Who is God searching for? What is the Lord wanting of this man? Is the Lord hunting for him as He hunted Adam in the Garden of Eden? It is there we hear the Lord calling: "Adam, Adam, where art thou?"

No. This time the circumstances are very different. Here in my text God is hunting for an intercessor in prayer. God is looking for a praying man or woman — and they are scarce and hard to find.

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Oh, there are a lot of people who just say prayers — but the kind who will stand in the Gap, like Moses and Paul did, are very hard to find.

In the earlier days, the real prayer partners of the Lord were called PRAYER WARRIORS. For instance, we see the Church on its knees in the house of John Mark praying through to the Lord for the release of Peter from jail. Peter was a great soul winner and the devil could not stop him in any other way except to have him locked up behind bars. The Church prayed day and night for his release because the officials were determined to kill Peter right after Easter. They filled in the Gap and won Peter's release.

Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane in prayer warfare. Jesus filled the Gap and battled the demon powers who tried to kill him in sight of Calvary. Here is the greatest victory on the battlefield of life, won by Jesus! If satan's plans had not

fallen through, he would have stopped Jesus short of dying on the Cross for the salvation of the whole world.

When the whole nation of Israel was in captivity in the land of Persia, wicked Haman influenced the king to make a decree for the destruction of all the people of God. While they were under the death sentence, Mordecai called the whole nation of Jews to prayer and fasting. They filled the Gap, and God brought them a great deliverance.

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One day God called Moses up into Mount Sinai for a Fellowship Meeting. By the end of 40 days together, the glory of God had settled on Moses until his face shone. When he came down the Mount into the sight of the people of Israel, they could not look upon him for the brightness of the Shek-inah glory. Moses was asked by the people to cover his face with a veil.

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Then, coming nearer into the encampment, he heard music and saw them dancing. These goings on were around a golden calf that Aaron had made for the people to worship.

It broke Moses' heart to see his people forsake the Lord for some dumb idol. Their sin grieved his heart and provoked him to anger. He was so furious that he smashed the golden calf to pieces, ground it into powder, and then threw the gold dust into the water and made the people drink of it! Now he reproved the people for their wickedness in breaking the first commandment, "***Thou shalt have no other gods before Me, saith the Lord in Exodus 20:3. "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them." Exodus 20:5***

God called Moses back to Himself up into the Mountain. He told Moses how all Israel was going to perish, and that Moses was to become the father of a brand new nation!

Moses fell to his knees in real, earnest, compassionate prayer. He begged God, with much pleading, not to do this. Moses stood in the gap before God for the nation of Israel, and saved them from destruction. This kind of praying comes from a heart of love for people, and a real love for God.

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God heard in Moses' prayer: *Lord, if you destroy these people, then the heathen will say, 'The Lord was not able to bring the people into the Promised Land and therefore destroyed them.'* Moses was concerned about God's reputation before all the unsaved, as well as the welfare of his own people. Prayer saved a nation, for God found a man to stand in the Gap before Him for the land.

One day after crossing the Jordan, Israel suffered an awful humiliating defeat at a little place called Ai. Joshua got down on his knees and prayed to the Lord for help. He asked the Lord, ***“What will you do to your great Name if Israel falls before her enemies in defeat, for we are Thy people!”***

The Lord appeared to Him and told Joshua what to do. Joshua stood in the Gap before the Lord, for the land, and he won the victory. Only real men and women of prayer can bring victory out of defeat and life in the face of death.

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At another time, Moses stood in the Gap for his sister, Miriam, who was dying of leprosy. The dreaded disease came upon her because of her sin of faultfinding and criticism of the Lord's servant, Moses. Moses interceded to the Lord for her and spared her life from certain death. God found a man who cared, and she was spared.

In each of these last three experiences I have told you about, sin was the big troublemaker, and it separated the people from their God. Judgment was certain to fall upon them for their evil ways until God found a man to stand in the

Gap and intercede for them. It was the people of God who failed the Lord and forsook Him that caused them to get into all this trouble.

When a church gets as big as ours, sins are bound to creep in here also, and the Presence of the Lord can be lifted from us. We need to do again what we used to do in the earlier days in our church, and that is: Have prayer meetings around here, and also Cottage Prayer Meetings. The family that prays together, stays together — and so, also, with the Church.

In order to keep our church strong, it has to be clean. To keep it clean, it needs the power of God in it to overcome temptation and sin. Where there is no prayer, there is no power. Where there is little prayer, there is little power. Where there is much prayer, there is also much power. We need to pray for our nation and for the salvation of the world, for they are lost and away from Christ. In conclusion, let me tell you of the most wonderful Person to stand in the Gap before God for the world. I see Him dying there on the Cross where God laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

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God made Jesus to become the sin offering for us all. He prays, "***Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.***" Our sins crucified Jesus and nailed Him to the Cross. Jesus became our Mediator between God and judgment. Jesus stood in the Gap and pulled the Offended Party and the Offending Parties together. Jesus made atonement for our sins and paid the price for our release from the certain, sure judgment of eternal punishment,

Right now, the Bible says: "***HE ever liveth to make intercession for you.***" (***Hebrews 7:25***) He is interceding right now to God on your behalf. If you will confess your sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins, and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.

In **Revelation 5:2**, a strong angel is proclaiming with a loud voice: "***Who is worthy to open the Book and to loose the seals thereof? And no one was found in Heaven, nor in the earth, nor under the earth able to open this Book and to read the Book, neither to look on it.***"

The writer of the Book of Revelation, John the beloved, began to cry. One of the elders before the Throne of God said to him, "**Weep not, for behold, The Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the Book and to loose the seals thereof.**" And John looked, and "**in the midst of the Throne and of the four living creatures with the elders stood a LAMB as if it had been slain.**" (Revelation 5:6) He came and took the Book out of the Hand of God Almighty and His Name is Jesus.

Right after this we see a great multitude of people in Heaven saying, "**Thou art worthy to take the Book and to open the seals thereof, for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy Blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.**" (Revelation 5:9)

This Jesus wants you in that great multitude in Heaven, so why not come now and receive Him to be your only Saviour, Lord, and Master.

**"Neither is there Salvation in any other; for there is no other name under Heaven given amongst men whereby they must be saved."** (Acts 4:12)

