

**“The Weapon of Prayer – Part 2” \* Eph.1:15-23**  
**Easter Sunrise \* March 23, 2008**

*I. From Thursday’s message we saw Jesus model two types of prayer:*

A. Prayer where he \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father so that he could \_\_\_\_\_

B. Prayer where he \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father through \_\_\_\_\_.

C. Taking a cue from Ezekiel 22:30, we said that ‘intercession’ is \_\_\_\_\_ in the gap for another person in prayer, building up a \_\_\_\_\_ of protection and blessing around them so that Satan cannot bring them down.

*II. Why is intercessory prayer a challenge for many Christians?*

A. Because it’s \_\_\_\_\_ work.

1. Why?

B. Because humanly speaking, it doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Why doesn’t it?

2. If God knows our needs before we ask him, then why should we ask Him?

3. In the Middle Ages there was very little missionary work – why? Had God stopped loving lost people?

4. How did William Carey change all this?

C. It can be so very \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Why?

*III. Jesus Modeled For Us Whom To Intercede For And How*

A. We are to pray for fellow \_\_\_\_\_.

1. What was Jesus’ point when he said that the disciples were to go out and buy a sword now?

2. In John 17, what three things does Jesus pray for?

3. What sort of things do we ask God when we pray for fellow believers? (Eph.1 15-23; Col.1:9-12)

B. We are to pray for those who are \_\_\_\_\_. (John 17:20)

1. What did Jesus tell us about lost people? (Matt.13: 18-23)

2. What sort of things do we ask God when we pray for the lost? (Col.4:2-6; Eph.6:19-20; 2 Cor.4:3-4)

C. We are to pray for the \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 22:47-51)

1. How do we pray for these? (Acts 10:37-38; James 5:13-16).

D. Others we are to pray for:

*IV. Final Thoughts For Intercession*

A. We Need To \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 18:1-8)

B. We Need To Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_.

C. We Need To Pray in Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_.

D. We Need To Pray As The \_\_\_\_\_ Directs.

E. We Need to Pray in \_\_\_\_\_.

**“The Weapon of Prayer – Part 2” \* Eph.1:15-23  
Easter Sunrise \* March 23, 2008**

I. From Thursday’s message we saw Jesus model two types of prayer:

A. Prayer where he **communed** with the Father so that he could **listen**.

B. Prayer where he **battle** with the Father through **intercession**.

C. Taking a cue from Ezekiel 22:30, we said that ‘intercession’ is **standing** in the gap for another person in prayer, building up a **wall** of protection and blessing around them so that Satan cannot bring them down.

II. Why is intercessory prayer a challenge for many Christians?

A. Because it’s **hard** work.

1. Why?

**Standing in the gap for other people, battling for them, bringing them before God it takes time, mental effort, spiritual strength. There are so many people that we can be praying for. There are so many needs out there. Where does it end? As a pastor I’ve learned that there is such a thing as ‘compassion fatigue’. You get worn out carrying the needs of others in your hearts.**

B. Because humanly speaking, it doesn’t **make sense**.

1. Why doesn’t it?

**How can me presenting a list of names before God make any real difference in the entire scheme of things? It seems a little silly, humanly speaking. What’s more, Jesus himself said that God already knows what is needed before we ask him. So why ask him?**

2. *If God knows our needs before we ask him, then why should we ask Him?*

**Because he says to ask him. For some reason, God has decided to share the work of rescuing this lost world from sin with us, and one of the ways that he shares the load is through prayer. God has decided to limit himself as it were to our prayers. “You have not because you ask not,” the Bible tells us. God determines in his**

**heart to do something, but before he does it, he calls on his people to pray for it, and then, and only then, does he do it.**

3. *In the Middle Ages there was very little missionary work – why? Had God stopped loving lost people?*

**European Christians had stopped their ears and closed their eyes and hardened their hearts to the idea of taking the gospel to other nations. And they stopped praying for such things. William Carey as a young man in the late 1700s wanted to go to India to be a missionary. He was told by a doctor in the church, a leader of English Christianity: “Young man, when God pleases to convert the heathen he will do it without your aid or mine.” That was what the average Christian thought.**

4. *How did William Carey change all this?*

**But Carey would have none of it, and thank God for that. Carey prayed fervently for God to send him; in his sermons he said to people: “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God”. When he died in 1834, Carey had planted the gospel in India for good, overseen the translation of Scripture into more than forty languages, raised up a Bible college, and almost single-handedly jumpstarted what is called the Modern Missionary Movement.**

C. *It can be so very **discouraging**.*

1. Why?

**Because we don’t always get what you want. You get inspired by someone like William Carey, and then you pray, and pray and pray, and then nothing happens, and the wind goes out of your sails. You pray for someone to receive healing that they stay sick. You pray for someone to receive salvation, and they stay lost. And after awhile it just can get a little tiring. “Hope deferred makes the heart sick” says the Proverbs, and it’s easy to sometimes feel that way when it comes to prayer.**

### III. Jesus Modeled For Us Whom To Intercede For And How

#### A. We are to pray for fellow believers.

1. What was Jesus' point when he said that the disciples were to go out and buy a sword now?

Up till that point, he was right there with them, to protect them, to provide for them, to have their backs. Now he was going to die. He was going to be taken away from them. And even after the Resurrection, which he doesn't talk about here, they were not going to have Jesus in the same way as before. The point is not that they needed to literally go out now and each of them buy swords – because as soon as they produce two of them, Jesus says, 'That's plenty'. He's not talking about literal swords, but what he is saying is that when he goes away, it'll be different from before because he won't be around in flesh and blood any longer. Because of this, they'll need to have each other's backs.

2. In John 17, what three things does Jesus pray for?

He prays for their protection. John 17:11,15 – "I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name...My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one."

He prays for their fruitfulness as his messengers. John 17:20 – "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message."

He prays for their unity. John 17:21,23 – "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me...May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

3. What sort of things do we ask God when we pray for fellow believers? (Eph.1:15-23; Col.1:9-12)

That God would give them wisdom & revelation knowledge.

That they may be filled with hope.

That they may walk in Christ's power.

That they may live a life worthy of the Lord.

That they may bear fruit in every good world

That they may grow in the knowledge of God.

That they may be strengthened with all power.

That they may have great endurance and patience.

That they may experience great joy.

#### B. We are to pray for those who are lost. (John 17:20)

1. What did Jesus tell us about lost people? (Matt.13:18-23)

In the parable of the Sower he explains how Satan can come and steal away God's Word from them if they don't understand it. Or they may be led astray by the pressures of life. Or they may be drawn away by money and worldly pleasures.

2. What sort of things do we ask God when we pray for the lost? (Col.4:2-6; Eph.6:19-20; 2 Cor.4:3-4)

That God would open doors for our message.

That we can proclaim God's truth clearly.

That we would be wise in the way we act around outsiders.

That our conversation would be full of grace, and we would make others thirsty.

That we may share God's Word fearlessly.

That Satan would not be allowed to blind the minds of the unbelievers we talk to.

#### C. We are to pray for the sick. (Luke 22:47-51)

1. How do we pray for these? (Acts 10:37-38; James 5:13-16).

We recognize that Satan is ultimately behind sickness. We battle against sickness through prayer. We surround the sick person and bless them with our prayers. Eventually, we commit them into God's will, but we do that at the end of our praying, not at the beginning. So many use the phrase "If it be Thy will" as an excuse to not pray with intensity and passion.

*D. Others we are to pray for:*  
**Government leaders. Family members.**

*IV. Final Thoughts For Intercession*

*A. We Need To Persevere (Luke 18:1-8)*

*B. We Need To Sometimes Step It Up (through fastings, watchings, and extended prayer times.*

*C. We Need To Pray in Jesus' Name. (Which is no mantra, but is praying in the *authority* of Jesus' name.)*

*D. We Need To Pray As The Spirit Directs.*

*E. We Need to Pray in Faith.*