

ROMANS 8:18-27 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. **19**For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; **20**for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21**that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22**We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; **23**and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. **24**For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? **25**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. **26**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. **27**And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

EXODUS 33: 1-5, 12-17 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' **2** I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. **3** Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way." **4** When the people heard these distressing words, they began to mourn and no one put on any ornaments. **5** For the LORD had said to Moses, "Tell the Israelites, 'You are a stiff-necked people. If I were to go with you even for a moment, I might destroy you. Now take off your ornaments and I will decide what to do with you.' "..... **12** Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' **13** If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people." **14** The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." **15** Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. **16** How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" **17** And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." **18** Moses said, "Show me your glory, I pray."



What do we learn about intercession in these passages?

Intercession: Where God and Campus Collide

INTERCESSORY PRAYER IS ONE OF MANY TYPES OF PRAYER...

- is your private, individual prayer relationship with Jesus. (John 15:1-11)
- is praying for a person in person. Often this involves prayer for some type of healing, and it often involves laying on of hands as a gesture of our request that God would touch the person's need. (James 5:14-18)
- *Petitionary prayer* is prayer that happens alone or in groups. In petitionary prayer, we bring the requests of our heart to God and ask him to intervene. (Phil. 4:6-7)
- *Intercessory prayer* is between God's purposes and feelings, and the condition of his creation. It always involves (through listening prayer, Scripture, community, and leadership) about his purposes, and it always involves the condition of God's mission on earth. It is best done in groups, and it often involves God's purposes being done in the people who are praying. (Jason Jensen)

Some other examples of intercession: Genesis 18:17-33, Nehemiah 1, Ezekiel 37:15-23, Daniel 9, John 17

The real meaning of intercession is . What makes a good mediator?

- with both sides.
- is key. Intercession always begins with listening, observing, asking, hearing...
- Drawn to the – what is the heart of the issue?
- Deal with your own issues first.

What would it mean to intercede for situations on campus with this paradigm of mediation? How could it change the way you pray? We want to kiss boring prayer meetings goodbye! The challenge is - how do we connect the dynamic in our prayer group with the dynamic for which we are praying? Remember that in intercession our language (verbal and non-verbal!) needs to reflect both the concern of God and the reality of the situation for which we are praying.

How might you lead prayer as mediation in the following situations?

- Praying for the conversion of seekers in your dorm
- Praying for racial reconciliation on your campus when hate crimes have targeted minority students
- Praying for a revival of spiritual interest in your fraternity or sorority
- Praying for your campus fellowship to gain a passion for evangelism

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What do we learn about intercession in these passages?

- Intercession is dynamic – back and forth, give and take, esp. between Heaven and Earth, between God and his people.
- The presence of a go-between: Moses, the Holy Spirit, even ourselves!
- We have a part in both sides: we groan and sigh with the earth, yet we have the Spirit who has the mind of God. We, with the Spirit, are invited into mediation in prayer.
- Notice Moses negotiating God's own feelings and intentions.
- The position of humility (our weakness, we do not know how to pray as we ought), and boldness (Moses' honesty and requests).
- The problem of sin - things are not as they should be. We hold in tension the reality of weakness/disobedience/ignorance (ours and others) and the purposes of God – paradox!
- Yearning, longing, waiting, asking – holy desperation is part of intercession.
- The Spirit is our guide, "for we do not know how to pray as we ought." We lack objectivity, we don't know the whole story, we think of ourselves as bigger than we are, we think of God as smaller, there is no clear 'right way'...We need discernment!
- The reality of hope – God is at work to reveal his glory through the children of God! We stand on the promises of God.
- The goodness of God – He really is for us! He longs to bring about the fulfillment of his will among his people, and all of Creation.
- God's commitment to his glory, for the sake of all creation. All mission springs from His great mission.

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- **Devotional Prayer** is your private, individual prayer relationship with Jesus. (John 15:1-11)
- **Prayer Ministry** is praying for a person in person. Often this involves prayer for some type of healing, and it often involves laying on of hands as a gesture of our request that God would touch the person's need. (James 5:14-18)
- **Petitionary prayer** is **request-based** prayer that happens alone or in groups. In petitionary prayer, we bring the requests of our heart to God and ask him to intervene. (Phil. 4:6-7)
(Intercession is most often mistaken as simply "petitionary prayer for others." True intercession moves beyond petition...)
- **Intercessory prayer** is **mediating** between God's purposes and feelings, and the condition of his creation. It always involves **listening to God** (through listening prayer, Scripture, community, and leadership) about his purposes, and it always involves **observing** the condition of God's mission on earth. It is best done in groups, and it often involves God's purposes being done in the people who are praying. (Jason Jensen)

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What it means to "intercede." Have you ever done mediation?

The real meaning of intercession is **mediation**. What makes a good mediator?

- **Credibly identify** with both sides. Put yourself "in their shoes", feel what they feel. Think of Daniel and Nehemiah repenting on behalf of their brethren, or Jesus (the ultimate mediator/intercessor) identifying with sinners!
- **Listening** is key. Intercession always begins with listening, observing, asking, hearing...
- Drawn to the **greatest tension** – what is the heart of the issue? What is really going on here? Ask Jesus, "How are you praying for this?"
- Deal with your own issues first. **Need maturity. It's not about you...even though God is involving you to pray. Repent of your own frailties first.**

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Ask...Who are the parties involved?

How does God care about the issues and feelings on all sides?

What kind of transformation might the Spirit of God yearn for?