

WHAT IS INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Luke 11:1-10

Lord, teach us to pray. Intercessory prayer is like an inter-continental ballistic missile. It is the secret weapon of the church. It can be fired from any spot on earth, travel at the speed of thought and hit its target every time. It can even be armed with a delayed detonation. Jesus, in John 17, said "I pray not only for these but also for those who shall believe on me through their word." Long before I was born, Jesus prayed for me and when I was saved that prayer went into effect. I ~~am~~ may not be able to leave my children a great deal of money when I die, but I have already given them an inheritance of prayer. And long after I am dead, God will be answering prayers in their behalf that I ~~have~~ prayed for them while I ^{was} ~~am~~ ~~still~~ alive. What a marvelous truth! what a marvelous weapon! I think the greatest thing about this secret weapon of the church, the ministry of intercession, ~~though~~ is the fact that there is no defense against it. The devil has never yet invented an anti-ballistic missile. Now the lost man has a defense against your preaching - he doesn't have to come. He can throw away the tract you give him as you pass him on the street. He can turn off the radio, shut off the television. When

he does come to church, he can close his ears and count how many choir members are wearing glasses. But there is one thing that he cannot do. He cannot keep Jesus from knocking at the door of his heart. The ministry of intercession is God's secret weapon. He has given ^{to} the church to wage spiritual warfare in these days. I want you to know when ^{WE} you go against the devil armed with that weapon the victory is already ours. When Jesus was praying for Peter and prophesying of his failure he said, "I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not, and when thou art turned again (I'm glad he didn't say and if you are turned again, no doubt about it, he said when thou art turned again), strengthen thy brethren. ^{" (Luke 22:32)} The weapon of intercession is an invincible weapon that God has placed in our hands. ~~And,~~ ^{As} a matter of fact, intercession is the very essence of the gospel. ^{In} ~~When I read~~ Isaiah 53:12 I read ~~in that last verse~~ ~~it says~~ that "Jesus made intercession for us - for the transgressors. I ~~XXX~~ in II Cor. that "he who knew no sin was made to be sin for me, that's intercession. When Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan, John said, "Jesus, I need to be baptized by you" because John's baptism was a confession of sinfulness and a baptism of repentance. Jesus had no sins to confess. There was no need of repentance in his life. This is why John protested, but Jesus was doing what

He was identifying Himself with sinners. This is why He was born under the law as I am under the law. This is why He was made of a woman as I was made of a woman. Totally identified with me in His flesh, tempted in all points such as I am - ^{yet} ~~only difference is, He~~ without sin. Therefore we have a ~~high~~ high priest who understands and ~~can~~ sympathizes. The essence of the gospel is intercession and ~~by the way~~ that's what Jesus is doing right now. The longest prayer in the Bible is John 17, it is prayer of intercession. Hebrews 7:25 says ~~that~~ he is able to save to the uttermost all them that come to God by him. Why? Seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for us. Would you like to know what Jesus is doing right now at this ^{moment.} ~~point~~ very ~~point~~, He's praying for this preacher. First John 2:2 says, "And if any man sin we have an ~~advocate~~ advocate (and that's just a fancy word for lawyer) we have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous." And he is - not without the covering of our sin. If we do sin, when we do fail, we have a ~~high~~ heavenly lawyer who stands face to face with the Father. ^{when} ~~You know,~~ most lawyers ~~when they~~ conduct a trial, they ~~always~~ plead their client's innocence. But Jesus is a strange lawyer, ~~he~~ he does not plead innocence, He pleads my guilt, but he says, "Father, because of the nails of Calvary, by every tear, by every drop of blood, by every

groan, for my sake, forgive him." And the Bible says our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. And right now at this moment Jesus Christ is ~~X~~ praying for me, and my salvation and my sanctification is secure because of his intercession. So when the devil comes to me with a charge I refer him to my lawyer. ~~He~~ ^{My Lawyer} handles all of my cases and ~~my lawyer~~ ^{his} has never ~~yet~~ lost a case, nor a client. Jesus is interceding right now. And so he says, "as the Father has sent me so ~~X~~ send I you." I Peter chapter 2 verses 5 and verses 9 tell me that God has made us a kingdom of priests." Rev. 1:5, ^{says} "he hath made us kings and priests." What is a priest? One of the basic tenets of Baptist faith is the priesthood of the believer. Now most of the time we've looked upon the priesthood of the believer as simply my ability to approach God without a go-between, but that's only a ~~dwarded~~ picture of priesthood. A ~~XXXXXX~~ priest is who? A priest is a person who goes ~~to~~ to God on the behalf of someone else. And the greatest sin that being committed today in the church of Jesus Christ is this sin; the lack of intercession. ^{When} Someone is saved, we rejoice; we praise the Lord for them, we watch them. Maybe ^{he was a} they were street kids or maybe ~~he was~~ an alcoholic or maybe she ~~X~~ was a woman of questionable character. We have a little reservation in our minds, ^{and} we're going to wait and see if they really stick with it. ~~and~~ ^{and} aft

a few months ~~their~~ ^{his} zeal begins to ~~not~~ die down and ~~they~~ ^{he} gradually drifts away
and you know ~~what~~ ^{and} we say, "I'm not surprised, I always had my suspicions
about ~~them~~." ^{him} ~~And~~ never a time have we wept before the throne of God interceding
for ~~them~~. ^{him} ~~Daniel~~ ^{SAMUEL} said, "God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in
ceasing to pray for you." ^(1 Sam 12:13) And that person you ~~xxxxxx~~ criticize because he
~~has fallen~~ ^{fell} by the way side; ~~did~~ ^d you pray for ~~him~~ ^{him?}, have you interceded for him?
It is a sin against God if I fail to intercede for the believers in my church
as well as for others. The ~~Ministry~~ ^{Ministry} of ~~Intercession~~ ^{Intercession} is the heart of the gospel.
The greatest prayers ever prayed were intercessory prayers. Abraham ~~praying~~
for Sodom and Gomorrah, Moses praying for ~~the~~ ^{his} people, Paul, in Romans chapter 10,
praying that Israel might be saved, that's intercession. ~~And~~ ^{And} if you'll read in
Phil. and Eph. and Colossians, all of ~~the~~ ^{the} prison prayers of Paul, you'll
find every one of them are intercessions, all of them. Paul going to God
on the behalf of someone else, that's intercession. And I want to share with
you ~~this afternoon~~ some of the characteristics of intercession, ~~and~~ I don't
know of another ~~passages~~ ^{passages} in all the ~~Word~~ ^{Word} of God that reveals to me the character
of intercession as ~~this~~ ^{the} parable that Jesus told in ~~verses 5, 6, 7 and 8~~ in
in response to his disciples ^{plea} ~~when they came and said~~, "Lord, teach us to pray."

been thinking about this series of messages ~~today~~, ^A man presumes too much when he stands to teach others to pray. I cannot teach you to pray, there is more about prayer I do not know than I do know. I think the disciples for once were correct, "Lord, teach us to pray", and I am merely today the channel through which Jesus wants to teach you to pray. And I have a suspicion that many of us will never be convincend of the power of this secret weapon until we experience it. I want you to try it for yourself. Please do not come and just listen to a message, you try it for yourself, this is the only way you'll be convinced of it. You remember how the disciples and ~~ladies~~ ^{women} tried to convince everyone that Jesus was alive, but ~~they~~ ^{the crowd} were not convinced = until who ^{until} they met the risen Lord. Jesus was the only one ~~that~~ ^{who} could convince them He was alive, and Jesus, as you meet Him in prayer, will be the only one who'll be able to convince you of the power of this secret weapon. The greatest illustration ~~I referred to last night~~ was when Moses ^{and} was on the mountain, Joshua was in the valley - what was Moses doing? He was interceding and the victory was won in the valley because it was already won on the mountain top. ~~And~~ ^{And} If you're going to see victories won ~~out~~ in the fields of evangelism you're going to have to be on the mount of intercession ~~and~~ winning the victory and winning the battle.

there.

~~All right,~~ What are the characteristics of intercession?

Number one; ~~I want to share with you three this afternoon -- #1~~

INTERCESSORY PRAYING IS DARING PRAYING; daring praying; bold praying;
audacious praying. Notice, "and he said unto them which of you shall have
a friend and shall go unto him at midnight (which was an inconvenient hour),
and say unto him, friend lend me three loaves." And then the fellow answered
from within, "trouble me not, the children are already with me in bed." Now
back in those N.T. days they didn't have four and five bedroom homes like some
of us have, ^{then} and the father and the wife would get in the middle and all the
kids would crowd along the sides. Now if any of you have ever had a little baby
^{you've} ~~that you've~~ tried to get to sleep and there's just no way to get ^{him} that kid to
sleep except lay down with ^{him} ~~them~~ and be real still, and lay there for awhile and
~~if you'll lie there for awhile they'll go to sleep, and you'll shout anybody~~
that walks in that room and wakes ^{him} that kid up. X Oh, I've done that so many
times, ~~and then~~ ^{she} after that child is asleep you try as easy as you can to become
a little feather and light off that bed, ^{and} you never make it. Can you imagine
if you were, ~~at midnight~~ ^{you lived} asleep and ~~this was~~ in a town where they rolled up

the sidewalks at dark thirty and it was midnight and you were in bed and all your children were in bed with you and some fellow's out there banging on the door, banging on the door? I submit to you, that's daring praying.

When Abraham prayed to God on the behalf of Sodom and Gomorroh, that was bold praying. He did not come to God as a beggar, ~~listen~~, you do come to God in salvation as a beggar, ~~but~~ when you come in prayer, you come as a son with family rights, and you will never understand the power of intercessory praying if you come to God half apologetic as a beggar to the back door of a stranger. I want you to know when I come on the authority of the blood of Jesus and in His Name as a child of God, an heir of God and a joint-heir of Jesus Christ, I have a right to demand things from him, that's what the word ask really means in the Greek in John 14:14. "If ye shall demand anything of me Intercessory praying must be bold praying, daring praying.

First of all it must be daring in it's size. Notice he came and said, "lend me three loaves." Now Wm. Barclay says that one loaf was a day's supply in Israel. Think of it; midnight, one man, lend me three loaves. Daring praying. I love that little chorus that says "thou art coming to a King, large

~~have~~ preached that very long sermon ^(long) because ~~the~~ the people were about to pass out from ~~the~~ hunger) ~~and~~ and the disciples said, "Lord, you better send them away or they're going to faint." ~~and~~ and Jesus said, ~~the~~ "They need not go away." ~~They did~~ ~~you know~~ you need never ~~to~~ go away from Jesus to get anything you need. You don't need to send them away. And he asked Phillip, "Phillip how much money do you have ~~and~~ and this he said testing Phillip, ~~and~~ and Phillip did what everyone of us do when we ~~XXXX~~ meet a task, ~~we dig~~ ^{he dug} into ~~our~~ ^{his} pockets and ~~we count~~ ^{he} ~~our~~ ^{ed his} money and ~~we measure~~ the situation by ~~our~~ ^{his} own resources. The only thing wrong with Phillip's arithmetic was he left God out of the calculation. ["] This He said testing Phillip. ["] You don't have to try to save God money. You pray big and plan big, ^I intercessory praying must be big in its size. When we first opened our Intercessory Prayer Ministry in our church and began ~~to receive~~ ^{ing} requests by telephone and letter and even telegram, the size of those requests ~~that came~~ in, the size of the ones that came in! I remember one particular day a little three year old child had ~~had~~ some Lysol splashed in ~~its~~ ^{his} eyes and had taken some into its mouth and ~~swallowed it~~ ~~XXXXXX~~ ~~swallowed it~~ ^{and} and the doctor said "if the child lives he'll be blind, ~~and~~ ^T the call came in, what a size, what a big

to pray that God would heal, and miraculously God answered the request and that ~~xxx~~ child's eyes were not even harmed. There ^{is} was absolutely no trace of any problem of any defect, ~~of any harm~~. The doctor said, "It's miraculous, it's miraculous." A little child born retarded ^{was} in a special school for retarded children, ~~went~~ ^{his mother} to a SS class meeting, the lady that had the program didn't show up and ^{one of the class members had} a woman was there and in her purse ~~she had~~ a tape on thanking God in everything. She said I feel led to play this tape and as she played that tape on being thankful in everything that mother began to weep. She had never done that. That day she claimed the promise from God that thanksgiving is the highest expression of faith and that God's power is released through the praises of His people and she began ^{praising} to praise the Lord for her retarded child. I want you to know today that ~~xxxx~~ child is in regular school, not a touch of that retardation remaining. What if that mother had said "it's too much to ask. It must be daring in it's size." It must also be DARING IN ITS STUBBORNESS. That's what the word impertunity~~x~~ means -> stubbornness. Now ^{she was} notice, ~~he~~ won't rise and give him ^{back} because he's his friend, ^{friendship} that doesn't make any difference when you are asleep at midnight and you've got all your kids in bed with you. I don't care if you're my best friend, I'm

not about to get up and give you what you need. But because of ^{he released the lord} ~~your~~ ^{his} stubborn persistence. ~~You know~~ in Luke chapter 18, Jesus speaks on the same thing, and ~~he~~ says there was a judge who feared not God nor regarded man, and there was a widow that got a bum deal on something and she went to this judge time and time again and said "I want you to do right by me, I want you to avenge me." Notice, "the judge feared not God nor regarded man but ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ lest by her continual coming she weary me (~~do you know what~~ that word really means; lest she do violence to me), he avenged her. Do you know what that judge was afraid of? He was afraid that the next time that sweet little widow came she was going to be bringing a ball bat and hit him over the head with it. Lest by her coming she do violence to me/. Shall not God much more avenge the elect? Are you the elect of God? Much more God will avenge you. Stubbornness, persistence - why must we be persistent? You say, preacher if it's God will that He do this, why do we have to keep coming again and again and asking God to do that? Because the enemy opposes every intercession; opposes every prayer. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ You go home this afternoon and you ^R read Daniel ~~XX~~ 10 and you'll find that ~~when~~ Daniel prayed and fasted, ~~he continued to pray and fast~~ for three weeks, 21 days, and at the end of that 21 days the angel showed up and he said, "Listen, from the day you

from the day you began ~~to~~ ^{ing} pray I left the throne of God, ^T the moment that prayer, travelling at the speed of thought, arrived at the throne of the ~~XXXX~~ Father, I was sent, ^B but the devil, an enemy angel, opposed me and there was war in heaven for 21 days, ^T that's why he had to pray, pray, pray and fast, ^W why? Because the enemy always opposes ~~X~~ intercessory praying.

^J Ephesians chapter 6 where Paul says, "Stand therefore having your ~~XXXX~~ loins girt about, ["] he ~~XXXXXX~~ says "stand" -- that's a military word that means to resist, he's talking about hand to hand combat with the devil, ^S stand, and in everything else he says to do following that, you're to do it standing. You're to have your loins girt about opposing the devil, ^Y you're to have on the breastplate of righteousness standing against the devil, ^Y you're to take the sword of the ^S spirit standing against the devil. Verse 18 says "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit." Stand praying. As you pray, you are opposing the devil, ^T that's why it's necessary to be stubborn in your prayer. ~~You know,~~ I wonder when we stand in the presence of Jesus, how many of us will hear him say, as He judges us for everything in our life, good or bad for reward or loss - I wonder how many times Jesus will say, "do you remember when you prayed for such and so, do you remember when you prayed for this

~~when you prayed for this healing?~~ If you had just prayed a little longer,
if you had just ~~prayed~~ stood against the enemy a little longer, it would
have been yours."

Now the story is not intercession but it's a good

This principle ~~to~~ ^{is} illustrate ~~it when~~ ^{when} in the book of Genesis Jacob is wrestling
with the angel, and the principle that I want to share with you is a very
simple one, the angel, ^{the angel} as the day began to dawn said, "let me go". And
Jacob said "I will not let you go unless you bless me." Now whatever else
that means there's something very strange to me about that conversation.
The angel said, "Let me go". Do you believe Jacob was stronger than that
angel? It seems to me that anytime that angel wanted ~~to~~ he could have
gotten loose from Jacob. I believe that fight was fixed. I believe the
angel was saying, "Let me go", but under his breath, "I hope he doesn't
because he's about to get the blessing." Stubbornness in prayer - "continue
in prayer", ~~XXXX~~ Paul says in Col. 4:2 and that word means "lay siege" to
the throne of God. But we must not only be ~~XXXX~~ daring in those things,
we must be daring in

Right here is where many of us drop out ~~in~~ intercession, and I want to talk with you for a few moments about this matter of sacrifice in intercessory praying. You don't read this parable very long until you understand this man was making a sacrifice. He was placing his friendship on the line; he was losing sleep, ~~he~~ was sacrificing something, ^{the whole affair} ~~it~~ was an inconvenience to him. There is a sacrifice that must be paid if we are to intercede effectively. ~~Now~~ let's go back, ^{to} the pattern, ~~is Jesus~~, Jesus is the ^{model} intercessor and I am to intercede as Jesus interceded, ~~and~~ how did He do it? He did it by ~~becoming~~ ^{identifying himself} identified with the people for ~~whom~~ whom He interceded. Identification is the key to intercession and that involves sacrifice. Jesus in Isaiah 53 identified ~~himself~~ ^{as he} made intercession for the transgressors. ~~All right,~~ Listen to Moses in Exodus chapter 32, ^{the} the people have sinned, he's on the mount, he's interceding, ~~now~~ listen to what he says, ^{and} and Moses returned unto the Lord and said, "Oh this people have sinned a great sin and have made them gods of gold, yet now if thou wilt not forgive their sin and if not -- notice -- blot me, I pray thee out of the book which thou hast written." I cannot understand that kind of praying. Man's mind cannot understand that

Moses was saying, "if you cannot forgive them, blot me I pray thee out of
the book which thou has written." ^{Notice} ~~All right~~, Romans ^{1-3:} chapter 9: "I say
the truth in Christ I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the
Holy Ghost that I had great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart
for I could ~~have wished~~ that my brethren were accursed from Christ - or
~~rather I could have wished~~ that my self were accursed for Christ - for
my brethren, my kinsman according to the flesh." That is intercession.
To wish myself accursed from Christ for their sake, that's why Paul
could say for three years, "I cease not day and night with tears
to warn and to preach and to pray." ^(2:19) That's intercession. ~~I want you to~~
~~Stay with me.~~ ^{do} II Cor. 4:10-12. Paul is giving us ~~in this passage~~ the
key to a spiritual harvest, and I think ~~XXXXXX~~ every man and woman in ~~this~~
~~building today~~ wants to have a spiritual harvest and there's only one
way you can have it. Notice what he says in the 10th verse: "always
bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also
of Jesus might be made manifest in our ~~body~~ ^{body}. For we which live are always
delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life also of Jesus might be
made manifest in our mortal flesh." Now in the 12th verse he gives us the 1

"So then death worketh in ~~me~~^{us} but life in you. Death worketh in ~~me~~^{us} but life in you." ~~Now~~ ^{One} more passage John 12:~~24~~²⁴⁻²⁵. Jesus says, "Verily, verily

I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." There it is again

the key to spiritual harvest -- "except a corn of wheat fall into the ground

and die it abideth alone." ~~Hey,~~ [★] are you abiding along? Is your witness

empty and fruitless, is your ministry empty and fruitless, are you

abiding alone? I'll tell you why - it's because you haven't died. It

abides alone unless it dies. But if it die it bringeth forth much fruit.

~~It's been~~ [★] a couple of years ~~and~~ ^{asp} I was in a revival meeting in another state

and God began to show me some of these things. I ~~think~~ I was desperate

because the meeting wasn't going ~~good~~ ^{well} at all. ~~You know~~ ^Y you can preach

with liberty and not power, and some of us have mistaken liberty for power

We had everything - good crowds, ^{and} good singing, I had liberty preaching, ^{but}

no power. Everybody was pretty well satisfied to call it a good meeting

because we had all the necessary, ~~it seemed~~, ingredients for a great meeting

~~And~~ I'd read a book and ~~in this book~~ ^{the author} the man just hinted at what I'm talking

about ~~this afternoon~~. So I began to read ^{these scriptures:} ~~these Scriptures~~, death worketh in ~~me~~ ^{us} but life in you. " Jesus died that I might live, Paul says

in Col. 1:24, -- "My ministry, my service is simply this, I am filling up that which is lacking in the afflictions of Christ." " For ~~it is~~ ^{unto}

^{you it is given in the} ~~given unto you on the~~ behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." ^(Phil 1:29) ^{2 Tim 2:12 says} ~~Romans 8:17~~ "If we suffer ~~with him~~ we shall also

reign with him. " No suffering - no reigning. " But death worketh in ~~me,~~ ^{us}

^{but} life in you. " There's the principle, death in me, life in you. Everytime

there's life in somebody it's because somebody else has died. ~~And~~ I got on my knees and I realized that if I could come to the place as Christ's

servant, if I would take upon ~~me~~ ^{myself} voluntary death, ~~then~~ death to convenien

death to normal advantages, death to luxuries, death to idols, death to

things, if death could work in me then I would have the right to demand

God to have life work in the people. ~~And~~ I knelt beside the bed in that

motel room and I ^{prayed} ~~said~~, "Lord, I don't understand too much about this

but I am hungry to see your power, ~~and~~ Father I'm willing tonight to take

death to myself in any area that I might claim life in the people."

~~And~~ ^I In a moment God put his finger on one thing: ~~He said,~~ "this is what I want you to die to." I jumped up off my knees ^{Sighing} and ~~I said,~~ "Lord, forgive me for praying something I did not mean." ~~And~~ I sat down in ~~that~~ chair and for one solid hour I had a controversy with the Lord. I'll never forget it. I think what hurt me most and grieved me most was that I had been so glib and so shallow as to quote something I did not really mean. ~~And~~ ^{For} one solid hour I sat there, ~~in that chair~~ and God said, "the line is drawn. Now there'll be no life in these people unless you are willing to die to that one thing." ["] ~~And~~ ^{At} the end of the hour, I fell ^{on} my face prostrate ~~on that~~ rug ^{AND SAID} and ~~I said,~~ "Lord, I'm willing to die to that thing." ~~And~~ I got up off my knees knowing victory. ^{As} ~~And~~ I walked into ^{the} ~~that~~ pulpit that night ~~and you~~ ~~know~~ I didn't have much liberty, but I had a lot of power from God. Sacrifice. ~~You know~~ God tried to teach me this when I was 19. I was holding a revival at the FBC of Bow Legs, Oklahoma. (I want you to know I have been in some prestige pulpits in my time.) One night a woman walked down the aisle weeping. ^S She told the pastor something and then the pastor shared it with the people, ~~and~~ ^{this} was the woman's testimony. ~~She said,~~ "For years I've

been praying for my lost father, every revival we've had I've prayed that God would save my lost father. ~~She said~~ ^I this afternoon I was standing at the kitchen sink washing the dishes, and I was praying, ' Oh, God, save my dad this week, save my dad this week, ~~and she said,~~ 'Lord, whatever it takes, save my dad, whatever it takes.' ~~And she said,~~ ^I the Lord spoke to me through His spirit and said, "would you be willing to die ~~xx~~ for your dad's salvation? If you were to have a car accident and at your funeral your father would be saved, ~~his heart would be tender,~~ would you be willing to die for your dad's salvation?" ~~And she~~ ^{she} walked down ~~the~~ aisle that night to say, and her father was not there, ~~but she said,~~ "I come publicly tonight to confess before this congregation that I told God I would be willing to die if my dad could be saved through it." Before the week was over her father was saved. ^{Are you} Willing to meet the sacrifice? ^{There are} There are some wives who have lost husbands. ^{They're not} They're not willing to be submissive to those lost husbands, ^{and she says,} ~~and the wife said,~~ Well preacher, ^{well...} if I were to submit myself to my husband like you say -- like God says ---. Last week I preached on submission in the home, the husband/wife,

~~and~~ ^{relationships} parents/children and there was a woman in the congregation ^{who was} ~~was~~ a women's li

she turned to the lady sitting next to her and ^{whispered} ~~said~~, "he's a male

chauvinist pig", ~~and~~ ^T the woman answered back and ~~said~~, ^{ARG} "NO you're calling

God a male chauvinist pig. He's the one that said it." ^{Wines} ~~But they've~~ come

^{saying} ~~and they've~~ said, "Pastor, if I submit myself to my husband like you say

it's going to mean sacrifice, and you don't know what my husband is like,

and I'm going to ~~XXXX~~ have to sacrifice and suffer." Who ever told you

you had no sufferings in the Christian life? All suffering in the Christian

life is redemptive -- and it is just ^{your} ~~that~~ suffering of ~~you~~ that God wants

to use redemptively in the salvation of that lost husband. ~~And~~ ^W when I am

willing to sacrifice and suffer in intercession for someone else, I have

the right to claim that answer from God. That's the law of spiritual

sacrifice. And I.P. must be daring in its sacrifice.

Secondly, INTERCESSORY prayer must not only be daring it must also

be DEFINITE.

Luke tells us that the man came to his neighbor and he said "Friend, lend me three loaves"
~~the~~ ~~man~~ ~~came to~~ ~~the~~ ~~man~~ and ~~he~~ said ~~give me~~ ~~XXXXX~~ - how many loaves-

three; one, two, three. Definite praying. ~~Definite praying.~~ ~~Now~~ ~~that~~

most of us
~~of us~~ in our praying aim at nothing and hit it every time. Did you know

~~XXXXXX~~ vague praying is a result of lack of faith? It doesn't take much faith to pray vaguely. It takes more faith to pray specifically. ~~Some of~~

~~us, now listen,~~ Some of us will not pray definitely and specifically

because we are afraid God will not answer and we will be humiliated. ~~You~~

~~see~~ *I* If the church is in revival ~~X~~ I can say, "Lord, save the lost." ~~that~~ *then*

if anybody's saved, I can say, "well my prayer was answered." But if I

come to God and say, "Lord, I ~~XXX~~ want you to work in so and so's life this week," there'll be no mistaking it if God answers my prayer or if God

does not answer ^{my} prayer. It is slander to pray and not expect God to

answer definitely and specifically. Jesus always prayed specifically.

~~Now we don't have time this afternoon to go through all the things~~

~~specifically that we can pray for.~~ Let me just mention a few, *of the things* ~~first~~ of

for which we should pray specifically. ~~There is~~ ~~all~~ ~~the~~ salvation, Romans 10:1. I head a man ~~preach not long ago and say~~

"we ought not to pray for the salvation of the lost and he quoted a

number of verses but he left one out. ^{Here} Romans 10:1 ^{where} Paul says, "~~my~~

^{my heart's desire and} prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved." ~~Now~~ Paul prayed

for the salvation of a lost nation. You can pray for salvation. You can

pray for healing, James 5:16: ~~is in the Bible~~, "Confess your faults one

to another ^{and pray for one another} that you may be healed." ~~Last month~~ ^{we recently} we published a two

page list of answers to prayer ^{from} in our IP ~~XXXX~~ ministry. I rejoiced at

all of those who had been saved through our IP ministry, I ~~was~~ rejoiced at

the fantastic number of people who had been healed through our IP

ministry. In the past ~~the~~ month I have had two people come to me and make

a strange request. Not long ago the phone rang in my study and it was a

lady who was a member of another church and ~~she~~ ^{she} said "Pastor, there's

a certain woman in our church ^{whose} and ~~she's~~ had multiple sclerosis for four

years and its getting worse and worse, ^{she} she is a great Christian, God has

dealt with her, ^{and} she feels ~~though~~ that God wants someone to anoint her w/
oil and pray over her. ^{how that didn't} She said "it doesn't matter whether or not

God ^{offer} heals ~~me~~ because He's done so much through this sickness, ^{and that} I would not

exchange this sickness for health if ^{she} I had to give up what God's ^{had} done for

^{her} me spiritually, ~~but~~ ^{she} she said I want to be obedient, ^{and} I feel that God wants ^{at} me to call for the elders of the church and have them anoint ^{her with} with me oil."

She said she ^{had} called her pastor to come out and he said it wasn't necessary to do ~~it~~ ^{that} ~~and~~ that he would pray for her, ^{however} but she's not ~~xxxx~~ satisfied.

"Would you do it?" I said, ^{"the caller asked."} ~~that I would~~ "I will." I ^{must} will because I have preached through "I Will."

the book of James and I agree with James 4 where it says, "speak not evil of one another, brethren.", and I've preached on that. And I agree

with James 4:17 where it says, "Therefore to him that knoweth ^{to} do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin." And in that same book of James is the

fifth chapter ^{which} that says, "If ~~there is~~ ^{sick} any among you ~~sick~~ let him call for the elders of the church; ^{then pray over him;} and let ~~him~~ ^{them} anoint him with oil in the name of

the Lord, etc., etc." ~~I said~~, I cannot preach James 4 without preaching James 5. Now the sick person is supposed to take the initiative. You're

not to go along with a bottle of oil ~~and~~ trying to get people to let you anoint them. They ought to take the initiative. ^{Is sick among?} If any ~~among you~~ ^{is sick,} is sick,

^{um} let ~~them~~ call for the elders of the church, "I'm an elder in the church, under God. I said, "you come over, ^{and} we'll be obedient to God." I have never in my life had such a sweet time and felt the presence of God. You ^{is that real?}

can pray for healing. ^{"And"} The prayer of faith shall save the sick. ^{"James 5:15"} Now the only

time you can pray the prayer of faith is when it's in God's will. You can

pray for healing. ^Y You can pray for growth - all of Paul's letters contained

~~those prayers of praying that Christians will ~~not~~ grow. say,~~ ^Y you ought to

pray for preachers, ^{Paul} did you know that? Listen to what ~~he~~ says in II Thess.

~~chapter 3, verses 1 and 2, and I did not know this was in the Bible until~~

recently, ~~rather chapter 3, ~~the~~ first two verses,~~ ^{"And"} finally, brethren,

pray for ~~XXXXXX~~ us, that the word of the Lord may have free course,

and be glorified, even as it is with you: ~~And that~~ ["] now notice ~~X~~ he says

first of all ^{to} pray that the word may ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{run, have} free course, that it may

spread and multiply. ~~Do not~~ ^{or} Don't only pray that I'll be able to preach

~~with word with power and effectiveness and pray for us that we may be~~ ^{"And"}

delivered from unreasonable, that means unprincipled men, and wicked men

for all men have not faith." Do you know one thing that ruins preachers

in America? ~~It's that~~ ^T they get involved with men who have no spiritual

principle and they're wicked. They get involved in business deals and other

^{"shenanigans"} shenanigans ~~with them~~ and their ministry is ruined. Do you pray for your

pastor that he would be delivered from ~~XXXXXX~~ unprincipled people and wicked

men? And so we ought to pray specifically. * But let's go now to the last point because this is really the most important.

Intercessory praying ~~must~~ must be DESPERATE PRAYING. There must be about it a note of urgency. The hardest work I ever do is pray, I mean really pray. Because you cannot intercede effectively and ~~not~~ spiritually until you get ~~to~~ desperate about it. And this whole parable breathes urgency and desperation. *The midnight caller is* He's desperate. Let me share with you ~~in these closing moments~~ why we ought to be desperate about intercessory praying.

First of all because of our

INESCAPABLE RESPONSIBILITY

pleads He ~~says~~ "a friend has come to me in his journey." It was the custom ~~of~~ *that* ~~those days~~ if you were home some evening and a traveller on his journey came and knocked at your door and wanted something to eat he was your responsibility, you must provide for him. Notice what he says, " a friend of mine in his journey has come to me." He didn't come to the neighbor, he didn't come to the pastor's house, he didn't come to the deacons' house, he came to me, I have an inescapable responsibility. And parents today are shirking their spiritual responsibility and trusting the church

to minister to their children. I want you to know ^{you} those children are your responsibility, not the church's. They've come to you. ~~They've come to you.~~ And I do not know how ~~many of these~~ many parents have come to preachers after ^{their} those children are grown and say, "Pray for my children. I can't get them to come to church." They were your responsibility. I want you to know that God brings people to me in the journey of life and they are my inescapable responsibility. ~~And if~~ if you do not spend time praying over your children and praying over those that you teach and praying for your neighbors, you've never come to realize that God has given to you an inescapable ~~responsibility~~ responsibility. The book of James, ~~and also~~ the book of I Peter, ^{in the book of Acts, chapter 8} and also in Acts chapter 8, when it says "they were scattered abroad". The persecution arose in Acts chapter 8 and they were ~~scattered~~ scattered abroad. The word scattered is the Greek word for sowing seed. Do you know what God does? He takes His people, their seed, and he sews them. You think that you moved on that street ^{to} at that particular house number by accident, didn't you? No. That was God planting a seed because he wanted a harvest there. You think that you just stumbled into that office, into that job, [?] no. God planted a seed there.

You think that your company transferrd you to San Antonio, don't you? No.

God planted a ^{seed} because he wanted a harvest. Your inescapable

responsibility ought to make praying a desperate issue. It ought to be

desperate not only because of that but also because of

MY INADEQUATE RESOURCES

"And I have nothing to set before him." Do those words echo ⁱⁿ your heart?

A friend of mine in his journey has come to me and I have nothing to set

before him. My children, Lord, I've tried, I've reasoned, Lord, I come

to you in desperation, because I have nothing to set before them. I had

a black evangelist from Karthom Sudan in my office X not long ago and before

the morning service ^{in which} when I was to preach, we knelt and prayed and I will never

forget what he prayed, ~~he~~ he said, "Father if you do not bless the pastor

the people will go away hungry." My inadequate resources. ~~And~~ ^I If you do

not labor long in prayer it's because you've never been convinced of your

inadequate resources. ~~Listen,~~ ^A are you tired of lugging buckets of water

from the wells of othermen? Wouldn't you like to have your own fountain~~X~~

springing up, wouldn't you like to have your own river flowing out, rivers

of living water? My inadequate resources. But there's a last reason why

our praying ought to be desperate, ~~because~~ because

of HIS INEVITABLE REWARD

much

I tell you because he is your friend he will not rise and give him
but because of his importunity he will rise and give him what? As many
as he ~~was~~ needs. I don't know if you've got ~~two~~ ^{three} loaves or not, I know
he got all he needed. His inevitable reward - inevitable, no doubt about it
Inevitable, he will arise and give you ~~xx~~ as much as he needs..

I'll never forget when God was ~~really~~ trying to teach me this, I got
into a situation that all of us get into, I was backed up against the wall
financially. ~~And I have~~ ^{had} to have money yesterday or this pastor was going to
be in real trouble. ~~And~~ ^{at} about that time I got sick, not too sick, but just
sick enough ^{that} where I couldn't work. I ~~was~~ said, "well, this is of God, He's
made it possible where I can just lock myself up for a few days in my
bedroom and I'll pray down that money. So I opened my Bible to Matthew
chapter 6 verse 33 where he says "seek ye first the kingdom of God and his
righteousness and all of these things will be added unto you." And so I
got on my knees, opened my Bible to Matthew 6:33 and I prayed, ~~I said~~, "Lord

please, Lord give me this money, ~~xxx~~ Lord, give me this money, Lord, give
me this money, Lord, are you going to give me this money?" ~~xxxxxxx~~ I'd
stop for awhile, I'd read that verse over and over again, I thought that
~~maybe~~ I could get faith ~~just by~~ ~~you know~~ osmosis, or just by reading over ^{the verse}
and over again. ^{I thought} ~~that~~ somehow it would get into my head and into my heart. and
I stayed ~~xxxxx~~ there, I don't know how long, "Lord, meet my needs. Lord,
give me this money. Lord, give me a sign that you're going to answer
this prayer. Show me you're going to meet this need." And after I'd been
there for awhile slandering God, He said to me, "read that verse again." And
I read it again. "All these things will be added unto you." He said, "Don't
you wish your banker had said that instead of me?" ~~and~~ I read it again and
the truth hit me, if the president of the bank had said, "Now, Ron, you
just go ahead and seek first God and preach and tend to his business, don't
worry about these other things, I'll take care of everything". Do you think
I would have been there worrying and fretful and anxious and doubtful, of
course not. I would have been praising the banker. Thankful, victory. And
that day God taught me, never again to do anything ~~x~~ but lay the need before

Him and praise Him for the answer.

Now, what I'm going to say doesn't apply to you, it applies to me. I said, "Lord, it seems to me that it's a disgrace for my boy to walk up and down the streets asking the neighbors for food when I'm his father and I'll ~~not~~ feed him. ~~X~~ He doesn't need to go to the ~~XXX~~ neighbors, that's humiliating to me. And, Father, it seems to me that you're humiliated and disgraced when you promised me to meet all my needs and I'm going to bankers and loan companies and everything else and borrowing money to meet my needs. ~~I said,~~ Lord~~X~~ I will never again do it." ~~X~~ I'm not saying this is for you, ^{but} this is the way God dealt with ~~me~~ me. Every preacher~~s~~ becomes his own illustration, sooner or later, God sees to it. Not too long ago, there I was again, there had been sickness, adverse ~~X~~ circumstances, savings gone, \$700.00 needed by the end of the week. I prayed and I prayed and I prayed, I said, "Lord, thank you, thank you for the answer." Then God showed me where the answer was, we had some mutual stock that my wife and I had vowed we'd never cash in because that my boys' education. ~~And~~ ~~at~~ that

time we had exactly \$700 and something dollars. I said, ^{now} Lord, my wife and I have promised each ~~o~~ other that we wouldn't touch ~~xxx~~ that because that's our boys' future. God said, "Oh you can't ^{trust} touch me with your boys future?" I said, "Lord, if ~~you~~ you'll speak to my wife about that."

I got home that night after church and ~~xx~~ she said, "You know I thought today where we could get that money?" I said, "Where." She said

"those ~~mutual funds~~ mutual funds." I ~~x~~ said, "All right, I'll call them in the morning and tell them to send us the money." I called, their office was in Minneapolis and they said, "you'll have it by the end of the week."

I said, "great, that's when I need it." The end of the week came, the money was not there. I got on the phone, ^{said} called that office, ^{they} they said "we don't know, ^I it was sent days ago, ^I it ought to be there." Panic.

Frustration. There's a man in our church ~~whos~~ who's one of my dearest friends, God has blessed him financially, I said, "here's what I'll do, this won't really be borrowing, I'll call him up, ^{said} explain the situation, I'll ask him to give me some interim financing for one day, I'll meet those

commitments, I'll give it back to him tomorrow ~~X~~ when the check comes in. That'll be all right. I called him, he was out of his office, I left word for him to return the call. I drove to the BBS, coming ~~X~~ back, God began to trouble me, "Can't you trust me, can't you trust me, if you'd have needed it, I would have given it to you. How do you know that Jesus isn't coming today, and you won't need that money?" So I said, "All right, Lord, I'll trust you." The man returned the call and said, "What do you want?" "Nothing it's all taken care of." One hour later our door bell rang and a man from that mutual fund company stood at the door and said "this check was sent to my office by mistake, here it is ." Special delivery from the Lord. Well, now listen, I thanked God, Oh, I was so glad I didn't borrow that money from that fellow, I thanked God..

The next morning into my office walked this man and his wife, they sat down, ~~and~~ they handed me an envelope and on the outside was written, "read Galatians 6:6, Williams translation." Now what that says is something like this, "They that are taught the word ought to share their goods with the teacher. " I opened it up, there were 7-~~XXX~~ one hundred dollar bills in that envelope. I immediately began to share with them about the day before

And he said, "You know that's funny. We had originally intended ~~X~~ just to give you \$600.00 and he said this morning we had those six one hundred dollar bills lying on the table and while I was brushing my ~~XXXXXX~~ teeth, the number 7 kept coming into my mind, number 7 kept coming into my mind. I came out of the bathroom ^{and} I told my wife, I don't know why but I just feel like we ought to give him 700.00. ["] He'll give you as much as you need. His inevitable reward.