

**“Shall Not the Judge of All the Earth  
Do What is Just?”:**  
*The Intercession of Abraham*  
*Sermon Notes*

➤ **Talking to others for God is a great thing, but talking to God for others is greater still**

*E.M. Bounds (1835-1913)*

*\*Mound Free Church...history belongs to the intercessors, so let us:*

1. Linger in the presence of the Lord (vv.22-23a; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:19-25)
2. Plead for the mercies of the Lord (vv.23b-32; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25; John 17)
3. Leave it in the hands of the Lord (v.33; Romans 8:26-27)

## Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of May 9th-15th

### Getting Started

1. Perhaps you're familiar with the time-tested A.C.T.S. prayer acronym (**A**doration, **C**onfession, **T**hanksgiving, **S**upplication). It's a wonderful device that helps to lend direction and proportion to our prayers. Have you ever used it in your own walk with the Lord? If so, describe your experience. Has it been helpful to you? Why or why not?

### Digging Deeper

2. As useful as A.C.T.S. can be, when you stop to think about it, there is one massive category of prayer that it overlooks: intercession. While we might rightly conceive of it as a subset of supplication, intercession is of such spectacular importance in the pages of Scripture that we really are wise to treat it separately. Strictly speaking, to intercede means to "go between" two parties or to ask on behalf of another. How high a percentage of your prayers would you guess are in the form of intercession for other people? For whom do you regularly intercede on a daily or even a weekly basis? About what sorts of things do you intercede for them?

### Open Your Bible to Exodus 32...

3. Though Abraham (in Genesis 18:22-32) is the first intercessor in Holy Scripture, he is far from the last.<sup>1</sup> Take a look at the golden calf incident in Exodus 32. Read through the account as a group. There are two key moments where Moses intercedes for Israel (Exodus 32:11-14 and 32:31-35). What is the content of his intercession in each case, and how does the Lord respond? Is there any sort of lesson or principle that we might be able to draw from these examples of intercession? If so, what is it?
4. As the mediator of the covenant at Sinai, there are a number of other key moments in redemptive history where Moses intercedes for God's people. Take the following texts and assign them to various members of the group: Exodus 33:12-15; Numbers 12:10-16; 14:13-19. Providing any background context you may need, share with the group about how Moses is interceding for Israel in each situation. Once again, compare Moses's intercession with your own. Are there any keys here that are helpful in terms of your own life of prayer? If so, what are they?
5. Another great intercessor in the history of God's people is Samuel. Consider 1 Samuel 7:5-9 and 12:19-25. What's happening in each case? Again, weighing the broader context and original meaning of each passage, are there any applications you can discern for us today? How about that stunning statement in 1 Samuel 12:23 where Samuel tells Israel: "Moreover, as for me, far be it from the me that I should sin against

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<sup>1</sup> Other intercessors beyond those mentioned in this study we might consider are men such as Job (Job 42:7-9) and Amos (in Amos 7:1-6).

the LORD by ceasing to pray for you...”? Have you ever considered the personal sin involved in failing to intercede for others? How does this make you feel, and how does it motivate you toward developing as an intercessor?

6. Elijah and Elisha are another couple of intercessors with whom we ought to be familiar. Take a look at 1 Kings 17:17-24 and 2 Kings 4:18-37 (especially verse 33) as well as 2 Kings 6:15-23. What fresh insights about intercession do you glean from these passages?
7. Obviously, the greatest human intercessor in the universe is the God-man, our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5; John 17). In fact, Hebrews 7:25 tells us that he: “...always lives to make intercession...for those who draw near to God through him...”. How much do you think about this reality? The writer to the Hebrews seems to describe the intercession of our Lord for us as an on-going, present state of affairs. With this in mind, discuss the following passage from Louis Berkhof’s classic *Systematic Theology*:

“It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life, that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our mind and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end.”<sup>2</sup>
8. Finally, in Romans 8:26-27, we learn that the Holy Spirit is also an intercessor on behalf of all who belong to Christ. What specific activities and descriptions of the Spirit here are particularly precious to you? Why?
9. Close your time as a group especially giving time to intercessory prayer for others. Don’t forget in the midst of all your intercession to pray for your ‘List of 5’. Consider the privilege you have that you may be the only person in the world praying for them and their salvation. Kinda lights a fire under you, doesn’t it?

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<sup>2</sup> Louis Berkhof (1939) quoted in Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI. 1994.