

CB - 3/10/63

direction  
Thanksgiving  
Confession  
Petition

### PRAYER AS INTERCESSION

Text: Selected passage from Est 32-34.

Intro: The word intercession (or related words) only appears 5x in the OT and 6x in the NT, but the Bible is filled with examples of intercession.

It could probably be defined most simply as an act wherein an inferior approaches a superior on behalf of someone else.

A perfect illustration is to be seen in Esther going before Ahasuerus on behalf of the Jews (Esther 4:13-7:10).

Probably the greatest intercessor in the OT was Moses in terms of the number of people involved.

The most serious time in Israel's history under his leadership followed the worship of the golden calf. It was then that he was called upon to intercede for the people.

(Relate the story.)

How did Moses pray for these people when he knew they had sinned and were fully deserving of the judgment of God.

Some intercession is preventive and positive. A clear illustration is given in the NT. Prayer is to be for our country, to bring the letter.

It is important to see that Moses came to the Lord, not just once, but several different times in connection with this one problem.

What can we learn from him about praying for others? There were a series of appeals which he made.

I. THEY WERE HIS PEOPLE (Ex 32:11).

He had chosen them (knowing what they were) and had brought them this far. If it had not been for God they would still have been in Egypt. Possibly here Moses was aware of his own sin.

II. GOD HAD MADE PROMISES HE COULD NOT BREAK (Ex 32:13). There was more involved than just the present circumstances.

III. MOSES HAD TO SEEK ONLY GOD'S WILLINGNESS TO FORGIVE THEM -- and the thought overwhelmed him (Ex 32:31,32).

Has forgiveness become a commonplace thing with us?

Unless God could forgive them, he himself wanted to be blotted out.  
Cf. Rom 9:1 ff.

IV. HE WANTED GOD TO TEACH THEM ALL THROUGH THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. But notice that he placed himself first.  
A. Show me now Thy way. (Ex 33:13).

This is what had gotten Moses into trouble, and this is what got Israel into trouble.

Why had Moses waited on the mount?  
This was God's way.

B. Show me Thy glory (Ex 33:18).

What is God like?

Note the words "goodness" and "gracious" in 33:19, and also the words in 34:6,7.

On the basis of these Moses feels safe in making his final petition.

V. Three in one - GO AMONG US  
PARDON US  
TAKE US

Anticipates Eph. 1:18 - "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints."

Concl: For Moses - a glowing face reflecting the glory of God. Cf 2 Cor. 3:18.

For the people - the building of the Tabernacle.

Fellowship restored.