

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Luke 22:31-32

We should come to the aid of others in prayer.

I. CHRIST'S INTERVENTION - Luke 22:31-34

A. PRECAUTION (31)

1. A warning: Simon, Simon
 - Jesus begins the exclamation by calling him Simon (a weak man) and not Peter (the rock-solid disciple)
2. Behold! Take note, pay attention, watch out
3. Satan's desire was to have Simon for himself
 - See Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-6 with Zech. 3:1-5 > Satan the accuser of the brethren (Rev. 12:10)
4. A time of sifting or severe trial is coming - See Luke 22:54-60
 - Jesus warns of repeated, swift, violent shaking of wheat as an illustration of the upcoming trial

B. PRAYER (32)

1. Jesus prayed: He lifted up the situation before God
2. For Simon in particular: Because he was an overconfident, headstrong and impetuous leader
3. For Simon's endurance: That his faith not fail
4. For Simon's recovery: Retrace your steps when you have returned to Me
5. For Simon's ministry: Once you know the way back, you strengthen others

C. PARTICULARS (33-34)

1. Peter's Overconfidence (33)
 - a. Boasting: I'll go to prison and death with You (and never deny)
 - b. Reality: He did not know himself - Jer. 17:9 "The heart is deceitful ..."
2. Christ's Answer (34)
 - a. Your boast is shallow - In a few hours you'll deny that you even know me
 - b. The rooster's crow will be a repentance aid - See Luke 22:60-62

II. SAMUEL'S SITUATION - I Samuel 12:16-23

A. THE PEOPLE'S CONDITION (16-19)

1. Fearful (16-18)
 - Because God sent thunder and rain at Samuel's request
2. Desperate (19a)
 - a. They couldn't pray ... they needed an intercessor
 - b. Death seemed imminent
3. Confessional (19b)
 - Admitting their sinfulness

Over please >

B. THE PROPHET'S COMMUNICATION (20-22)

1. Exhortation (20-21)
 - a. Serve the Lord (20)
 - b. Avoid futile things (21)
2. Encouragement (22)
 - a. The Lord will not abandon you!
 - b. He gives them hope

NOTE: At this point many of us would stop, thinking we've done all we could do to restore and reassure these repentant sinners

C. THE PROPHET'S COMMITMENT (23)

1. Intercession (23a)
 - a. His pledge: A committed obligation to persistently, passionately pray for them
 - b. His perception: Not praying for them would be a sin against God
2. Instruction (23b)
 - Teaching them the good and right way
3. Inspiration
 - God won't abandon you and neither will I

III. PERSONAL APPLICATION

A. OUR INTERCESSION

- For whom should we pray?
1. Pray for those who mistreat us - Luke 6:27-28
 2. Pray for those without access to God - Acts 8:18-24
 3. Pray for those who sin against God - I John 5:16
 4. Pray for the afflicted - II Cor. 1:8-11
 5. Pray for the politicians - I Tim. 2:1-4
 6. Pray for the imprisoned - Hebrews 13:3
 7. Pray for the sick - James 5:14

B. OUR INTERCESSOR

1. Christ mediating for us - Romans 8:26-27, 34
2. Jesus praying for us - John 17:20-24
 - a. For our unity (21-23)
 - b. For our destiny (24)

CONCLUSION:

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties *and* prayers, petitions *and* thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men ..." - I Timothy 2:1 (NASV)

Will you commit to come to the aid of others by praying for them?

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