

THURSDAY, MAY 7 Moses Intercedes for a Nation

- Prayer for Moses / not last resort = prayer was his **lifeline**
- As he led Israel thru wilderness = time and again = when people were thirsty/ Moses cried out to God = Exodus 15:25; Exodus 17:2–6
- When they were hungry / angry / overwhelmed
 - Moses pleaded again = Numbers 11:21–22
- When Moses himself was exhausted / desperate
 - he poured out his heart = Numbers 11:11–15
- And God listened
- Stunning moments in Scripture = Moments when heart of God
 - heart of servant collide
- One = Exodus 32 = Israel had just committed spiritual treason
- Fashioned idol to worship / weeks after God covenanted w/ them
 - Judgment / deserved = destruction / justified
- Moses walked back up mountain = not to defend sin
 - not to minimize rebellion = but to **intercede**
 - not **casual** prayer / astonishingly **costly** prayer

Exodus 32:31–32 ³¹Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! ³²Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”

- Offered up his own life = rather than see his people disinherited/destroyed
- Moses could **offer himself** = but he could not actually redeem
- Yet in that moment = Moses becomes a **type of Christ**
- Because centuries later = Jesus would not merely offer
 - He would **be given**
- Moses stood between God / Israel = symbolically
- Jesus stood between God / humanity = **actually**
- **Isaiah 53:6** “The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

Exodus 32:33 And the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

- **Why Moses Could Pray Like This**

- Moses knew God = not just His power / but His **character**

Exodus 34:6 God revealed Himself: “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.”

- Moses believed that description
- So when judgment loomed = Moses appealed to mercy
 - When wrath threatened= Moses remembered grace
- He reminded God of His covenant -- Exodus 32:13
 - He claimed God’s promises -- Deuteronomy 7:8
 - He remembered how God had led them in the past --Deut 8:2
- Moses prayed God’s Word back to God
 - because faith clings to what God has already said
- Moses’ intercession held back God’s judgment

Later recalled, **Deuteronomy 9:19** “I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the **LORD listened to me** at that time also”

- When spies returned w/fear instead of faith = Moses said, **Deuteronomy 9:25** “Forty days /forty nights I kept prostrating myself before the LORD... because the LORD had said He would destroy you”

- **Learning to Pray Like Moses**

- Moses also teaches us something = deeply practical
- A close relationship w/ God does not mean every prayer gets a “yes”
- Moses pleaded to enter Promised Land = God said no =Deut 3:23–29
- Yet Moses did not stop praying = he trusted God’s wisdom
 - even when God’s answer = differed from his desire
- Jesus echoed this lesson in Luke 18:1–8
 - calling us to pray **persistently** / and not lose heart

- Prayer often change circumstances
 - and it always changes the one who prays
- Intercessory pray = highest calling to ministry
 - Because ministry of our risen / exalted Lord

Hebrews 7:25 declares: “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

- Right now = Jesus is praying for you
- When you fail / when you’re weak = when judgment seems deserved
- He does not grow weary = He does not stop pleading

Ezekiel 22:30 So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

- Stand in / gap = hold on to God’s promises = trust His character
- Because / same God who listened to Moses / still listens today
- Again and again Scripture repeats = same stunning phrase:
“The LORD listened” God listened because a man stood in the gap

Isaiah 59:16 ¹⁶He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor;

- Wondered that no one cared enough for others to pray
- Wondered that no one had faith to believe God would intervene

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you

- Who needs your intercessory prayers right now?
- A child/ spouse / friend drifting from God / nation in crisis
- What is stopping you—from praying right now?
- You may feel unworthy = may feel tired = may feel powerless
- But intercession is not about = your strength
 - It is about = **the One to whom you are praying**