

A Heart After An Intercessor

1 Samuel 2:23-25a (ESV)

And he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?”

Our heart’s longing for an intercessor

Job 16:19-21 (MSG)

There must be Someone in heaven who knows the truth about me, in highest heaven, some Attorney who I can clear my name – My Champion, my Friend, while I’m weeping my eyes out before God. I appeal to the One who represents mortals before God as a neighbor stands up for a neighbor.

Our heart’s tendency to turn to worthless intercessors

Hophni – Mr. Fists

Phinehas – Mr. Snake Mouth

A worthless intercessor is one who does not know the LORD

1 Samuel 2:12 (ESV)

Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.

A worthless intercessor takes your best for himself

1 Samuel 2:13-17 (ESV)

The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest’s servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, “Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat

from you but only raw.” And if the man said to him, “Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish,” he would say, “No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force.” Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD with contempt.

A worthless intercessor is one who abuses his power and position

1 Samuel 2:22 (ESV)

Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance of the tent of meeting.

God is more upset about injustice than you are

Isaiah 59:14-17 (MSG)

Justice is beaten back, Righteousness is banished to the sidelines, Truth staggers down the street, Honesty is nowhere to be found, Good is missing in action. Anyone renouncing evil is beaten and robbed. God looked and saw evil looming on the horizon – so much evil and no sign of Justice. He couldn’t believe what he saw: not a soul around to correct this awful situation. So he did it himself, took on the work of Salvation, fueled by his own Righteousness. He dressed in Righteousness, put it on like a suit of armor, with Salvation on his head like a helmet. Put on Judgment like an overcoat, and threw a cloak of Passion across his shoulders.

Our heart’s desire for an intercessor is our heart’s desire for Jesus Christ, the Faithful Priest

1 Samuel 2:34-35 (ESV)

And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day. And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever.

Hebrews 7:22-28 (ESV)

This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant. The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Jesus Is The Intercessor Who Gave Up All Of His Power And Position

Romans 8:34 (ESV)

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Jesus Is The Intercessor Who Gives Better Than Your Best

Hebrews 12:24 (ESV)

...and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Romans 8:27 (ESV)

And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Jesus Is The Intercessor Who Can Mediate Perfectly Because He Knows Both You And God Perfectly

1 Timothy 2:5-6 (ESV)

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.