

# REDEMPTION CHURCH

## Two Lies and a Truth | Where are All the Men?

### ISAIAH 59:15-17

...The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. **16He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation and his righteousness upheld him. 17He put on righteousness as a breast-plate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.**

### ISAIAH 59:5-6

*They hatch adder's eggs; they weave the spider's web...; Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make.*

### LINK

Steven mentioned a previous sermon for further study on prayer. You can find it [HERE](#). Check out the whole series, [Prayer, HERE](#)

This week Steven talked about what shocks God. He's been around since the beginning, is omniscient and omnipresent, yet *THIS* shocks Him?!

We go back to Isaiah 59 for the answer. What is it? That when truth stumbled in the public squares... **there was no man to intercede**. The original language of this verse relates that God was appalled; so, we ask the same question today, *where are all the men?*

*They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web...; Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make.*

### Notes:

We can look at most churches today and ask, where are all the men? Sadly, most churches are 60/40 women to men.

**So, what does it mean to intercede?** Biblically it means at least three things:

- **To advocate for...**(Abraham or Esther)
- **To defend...**(Phinehas; see Numbers 27:7-9; 11)
- **To pray...**Prayer, like the Word, always works inside out.

### What kind of man is God looking for?

#### 1. **One who'll take action!**

When God looks in and sees there aren't any men to intercede, He acted and said, *I'll do it*. Perhaps He wanted to see a man who'd intercede. Recall the Garden –man's first sin was not taking action when he should've. Men, where do we each need to take action right now?

#### 2. **One who will be prepared for battle.** (vs 17)

Compare Is 59 v17 with v6. Last week we saw that the spider web is no covering. Spiritual apathy, mild conversion and empty philosophy are no coverings. Men, we can't go to battle wearing a spider web. We need to go to battle wearing the armor of God. It's "His" because He wore it first. He clothed himself in righteousness, salvation, vengeance, and zeal.

## NUMBERS 27:7-9;11

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*When Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose and left the congregation and took a spear in his hand and went after the man of Israel into the chamber and pierced both of them, the man of Israel and the woman through her belly. Thus the plague on the people of Israel was stopped. Nevertheless, those who died by the plague were twenty-four thousand.<sup>11</sup> "Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy..."*

## NOW WHAT?

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Who knows what God would call each of us to. Do we have zeal for the church? Have we given the body of Christ the proper place for our time, our wallet, and our energy and skills.? How do we become men like this? Two ways:

1. Repent and acknowledge where we have fallen short.
2. Believe in the man who was what we couldn't be.

### Are we clothed in righteousness?

The only way is to be clothed in Christ. Paul says in [Col 3...](#) *put off that which is ungodly to put on that which is...* We don't clothe ourselves in our own righteousness, but in His!

### Are we clothed in salvation?

Are our minds secured in Christ and growing deeper roots in Him? Do we want to intercede for our families or our nation? We need security in our own salvation and understand the Gospel for ourselves at a bare minimum –wear a helmet!

### Are we clothed in vengeance?

We can better understand by reading about the story of Phinehas. Do the right/proper things make us angry? To be "clothed in vengeance" is to be appropriately angry. Sin, injustice and deceit should make us angry

### Are we clothed in zeal?

Zeal is a desire to do something about the problem. Maybe we have righteousness, salvation, and even a desire for vengeance –but will we do something about it? Are we the sluggard who won't lift the honey to his mouth? Who would say yes? Three things the world wants us to be zealous for: porn/sex; video games/fantasy sports; and domination (physical or financial). God wants us to be zealous about:

1. **Our relationship with Him.** Will you lift our Bible and read it, drop to our knees and pray, get ourselves to church, lead our spouses and children?
2. **Good works** [Titus 2:11-14](#). Are we zealous to do good works? What are those good works? Standing for truth and engaging culture.
3. **His house** ([John 2:17](#)). Are we ready to play our roles as partners in the Gospel as: servants, givers, deacons, elders, or church planters?

Jesus was the only man who took off His breastplate of righteousness so we could be clothed in it; replaced the helmet of salvation with the crown of thorns; had His royal robe stripped off Him so we could be clothed in the splendor of heaven; and was clothed in our iniquity so we could be clothed in His righteousness.

He was the only one who'd intercede for us, and He did when He prayed for us in the garden, advocates for us before the Father, and defends us against the lies of the enemy. As He was for us, now let us be for many!