**24-06-12**

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER**

**Text: Acts 12:1-10**

* Act 12:1 Now about that time Herod the king stretched out [his] hand to harass some from the church.
* Act 12:2 Then he killed James the brother of John with the sword.
* Act 12:3 And because he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to seize Peter also. Now it was [during] the Days of Unleavened Bread.
* Act 12:4 So when he had arrested him, he put [him] in prison, and delivered [him] to four squads of soldiers to keep him, intending to bring him before the people after Passover.
* Act 12:5 Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant [fn] prayer was offered to God for him by the church.
* Act 12:6 And when Herod was about to bring him out, that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison.
* Act 12:7 Now behold, an angel of the Lord stood by [him], and a light shone in the prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him up, saying, "Arise quickly!" And his chains fell off [his] hands.
* Act 12:8 Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and tie on your sandals"; and so he did. And he said to him, "Put on your garment and follow me."
* Act 12:9 So he went out and followed him, and did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision.
* Act 12:10 When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.

**INTRO:**

* In the Rulers of the kingdom, we’ve learnt that prayer is giving God the authority to interfere with earthly affairs.
* Things we should be praying for?
* Steps to take in prayer.
* Prayer barriers.

**AIM:**

* **FOR US TO INTERCEDE AS WE OUGHT TO**
* John 4:23 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
* Ezek 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.
* Isa 59:16 He saw that [there was] no man, And wondered that [there was] no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

**I. CONTEXT**

* Herod harassed the church
* He killed James the brother of John
* He also seized Peter and put him to prison
* While Peter was in prison, constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church-v 5
* Continually occurring; persistent.
* Regularly recurring
* Unchanging in nature, value, or extent
* Invariable.
* Continual
* Steadfast in purpose, loyalty, or affection
* Prayer in general is for ourselves but intercession is for others
* In prayer, we ask but in intercession we give or offer

**II. MISCONCEPTIONS OF INTERCESSION**

**1. Most people think that intercession is for the elite.**

* Ex. Please pray for me because you are much closer to the Lord
* Majority believed that intercession are for pastors, evangelists, apostles, workers, etc. (to do) but not for ordinary members of the church.
* Verse 5 tells us that intercession for Peter was offered to God by the church
* Have you been a part in offering intercession?
* Intercession was offered to God
* 1Ti 2:5 For [there is] one God and one Mediator between God and men, [the] Man Christ Jesus,

**2. Some people pray through dead saints as they believed those saints intercede for them.**

* Mat 18:19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.
* Mat 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

**3. Self righteous intercession**

* Dan 9:7 "O Lord, righteousness [belongs] to You, but to us shame of face, as [it is] this day--to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.
* Dan 9:8 "O Lord, to us [belongs] shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.
* Dan 9:18 "O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name;
* for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.

**III. IMPACT OF INTERCESSION**

* Peter was delivered to four squads ( 1 platoon)-v 4
* He was bound with 2 chains in between 2 Soldiers-v 6
* There were soldiers before the door-v 6
* And angel of the Lord stood by him-v 7
* A light shone in the prison
* The angel struck Peter and raised him up
* He told Peter to arise quickly
* His chains fell off his hands-v 7
* Peter went out and followed the angel-v 9
* He did not know that was done by the angel was real but he thought it was a vision-v 9
* They past the first and second guard posts
* The iron gate open on its own accord
* And they went out and went one street (NKJV)-v 10
* When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.(NIV)
* Why did the angel left him?
* It is on this particular time in life that we think God left us.
* Peter went to the house of Mary where many were praying.
* One reason GMHCM-UK is not growing fast because ONLY FEW ARE PRAYING.
* WE ARE NOT MAKING INTERCESSION AS BUSINESS
* Luk 2:36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher..
* She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,
* Luke 2:37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.
* When we work, we work but when we pray God works.
* The angel of the Lord struck Herod down and he was eaten by worms and died- v 23
* But the word of God continued to increase and spread-v 24

**IV. MAJOR CONCERNS OF INTERCESSION**

* Propagation of the gospel
* Advancement of God’s kingdom
* His will to be done.
* Life and protection of his servants and of anybody else
* Salvation of His people.

**V. OTHER SUBJECTS OF INTERCESSION**

* Authorities
* 1Ti 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, [and giving of thanks be made for all men,
* 1Ti 2:2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.
* Ministers
* Phil 1:19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
* The church
* Psalm 122:6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.
* Friends
* Job 42:8 So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. You have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."
* Countrymen
* Rom 10:1 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.
* The sick
* Jam 5:14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord
* Enemies
* Jeremiah 29:7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.
* Those who persecute us
* Mat 5:44 But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
* Those who forsake us
* 2Ti 4:16 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.
* To all men

**CHALLENGE:**

* Do you think Peter would have been saved from Herod or out of prison if no intercession was made?
* What else could have had happened if we had prayed as we ought to pray?

**CONCLUSION:**

* **1Sa 12:23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.**