God Is Seeking Men To Stand In the Gap:
Ezek.22:23-31

We take our lesson from Vv.30, and I want you to note this question: “Is God able to find men?” but “not just any man is He looking for, He is looking for a certain kind of man.”! He is looking for a man to fill in the gap!

A “gap” is a hole, a breach, an opening”. A “hedge” is a wall to separate and defend against.” The phrase “standing in the gap” means to expose one’s self to and for the protection of something; to make defense against any assailing danger.”

Beloved, I declare that we are in want of men who will stand in the gap; men who will expose themselves for Christ’s sake; men who will defend the truths of God’s Word; men who will fill the breach against assailing men & doctrine. Recall what Christ said: “Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.” (Matt.9:37,38). Yes, brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are in great need of men; but not just any kind of men, we need men who will stand in the gap. We need them very desperately or else we be destroyed as our text says, “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.” (Ezek.22:30,31). We need men to stand in the gap now for our generation and the next to come else where will the next generation go? (Joel.1:1-3; Deut.6:4-13); Who will uphold and sure up those ancient landmarks? (Prov.22:28; 23:10); for we have an ample supply of men who are removing the ancient Bible landmarks through their doctrine and practice devouring the flocks of God (Job.24:2—“Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof.”).

We have forgotten, and we have neglected to tell our children of the whole counsel of God and it is manifesting in our lack of men who are standing in the gap. Abraham taught Isaac about worshipping the Lord when he was but a ‘lad’ (Gen.22:5-8). We do NOT teach our children about the Lord any more; and I reiterate…it is showing in the lack of stand for sound doctrine, worshipping God, and morals in the generation that now is and that which is to come.

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS GOD SEEKING?

We know God is seeking men to stand in the gap because He said He was (Ezek.22:30). Beloved, the ministry is not a mere profession; it is not a job. It is work, but it is not a job. I never would have called myself into the ministry. When God called me into the ministry there was not anything in me that He saw that influenced His call to the ministry, but God’s ways are past finding out. Now, God is looking for a certain kind of man and God gives us a description of the certain kind of man God is seeking to stand in the gap:

First of all, the man that God is seeking to stand in the gap must be pardoned of his sin(s): Gal.1:15,16—Paul wrote of his own conversion experience and we see Paul was first saved, pardoned and then he preached. Personally, I believe in a God-called ministry; and God has yet to call a man who was lost into the ministry without first saving him. A man in the ministry, in the pulpit who has not experienced the saving grace of God has nothing whereby he can preach…for “We preach Christ crucified.” (1Cor.1:23). Every man who has been born has been born wrong. He needs a new birth and until that happens that man is not a man that God will use to stand in the gap.
Secondly, the man that God is seeking to stand in the gap is one whom God has called into the Ministry. Christ Jesus spok unto some of His disciples in Matt.4:19 saying, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men”. The Bible states that men are called by the Lord into the ministry. It is not the will of the mother’s, nor of the father’s, nor of the pastor’s, nor of the grandparents’, but the will of God. Neither are men made fit for the ministry through education. One may have the grandest seminary, Bible College there ever was…but one will never be able to educate a man into the ministry. Man has produced well educated, very eloquent men; but unless the Holy Spirit of God is upon them as God has called and fitted them for the work of the ministry…they will never prosper their hearers, nor bring God honour and glory. For the Holy Spirit is He who will lead you into all things (Jn.14:26).

We need men who are called into the ministry who will “preach the word” (2Tim.4:1,2), not use puppets & fairy tells, joke telling, but a man who will stand in the gap and preach the Word of God which is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (Heb.4:12). We need men who will stand in the gap and “preach the word” of God and not their own views and opinions. This is the kind of men we need.

Thirdly, God is seeking a man who is Submissive to the Will of God. Jesus spoke in exemplary fashion in Matt.26:39 saying, “…not my will but thine be done.” This is the hardest thing in the world to do: submit to the will of God. This takes as much grace to do as it does to save a person. Pulpits are filled today with men who use it for their own personal agenda, but we are in want of men who will be submissive to the will of God. Many pastors wonder why the church members they have been set over are not under subjection to the will of God. Perhaps it is because many of us Pastors are not setting the example that should be followed. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth saying, “Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.” (1Cor.4:16). And in another place he wrote, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (1Cor.11:1). Paul understood the necessity of being submissive to the will of God.

Fourthly, God is seeking a man who is Living a Separated Life. Paul wrote unto Timothy saying, “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his, And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, and prepared unto every good work.”(2Tim.2:19-21). Beloved, God has never used a “dirty vessel.” Those who wish to be used by God are those who must first separate themselves unto the Lord.

When God saves a person, He sanctifies them, or sets them apart for His service. We call this Positional Sanctification or Instantaneous Sanctification. This is shown in Col.1:13,14 in that we have been delivered from the power of darkness and been translated into the kingdom of Jesus Christ at the time of our redemption and new birth.

However, there is another sanctification that must take place; a daily sanctification, an hourly sanctification. Every child of God must grow in holiness. We use the term Progressive Sanctification or Continuous Sanctification. Throughout the life of the born-again child of God, he or she is to live a life of godliness for the honour and glory of Jesus Christ. Simon Peter wrote, “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath
called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy: for I am holy.” (1Pet.1:13-16). The word “holy” carries the meaning of being consecrated, separated, and sanctified for the Master’s use. And we are to be living a life that is fit or meet for our Lord and Savior’s use.

This is a great failure of modern-day Baptists. We are in too much agreement with the world. Where is that difference that God hath made? (1Cor.4:7). Too many children of God live like the world, dress like the world, talk like the world and have no spiritual fruit just like the world. It raises the question in our minds: are these individuals even regenerated in Christ Jesus?

Why is it that not even 50 years ago you could not find a Baptist in a liquor establishment and today Baptists are thought ill of for abstaining from this appearance of evil? Why is it that Baptists once did not participate in modern day apparel, but wore clothes pertaining to their gender and as well dressed modestly? Why is it that Baptists of old would not attend services of the Mother of Harlots but now view it “okay” if it is a funeral or a wedding? Why have we disregarded “Thus saith the Lord”? For God did say, “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,” (2Cor.6:17) as well as when God told His people to remove themselves from the Great Whore and her harlot children saying, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” (Rev.18:4). Baptists of old did not participate in reveling (dancing) whether it was at a school or a wedding, but now Baptists are encouraging their children to participate in such profligate behavior. Why is this happening? It is because we have too much friendship with the world; it is because living like the world is the norm!!!

There are so many examples of children of God who were not used until they were separated from worldliness and ungodliness unto the Lord: Samson and Jonah come to mind. But, we are lacking in men who are separated unto the Lord. Thus God is looking for men who will stand in the gap and he has found none.

Fifthly, God is seeking a man who will Endure Hardness. Paul wrote unto Timothy telling him to “…endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (2Tim.2:1-3). We need men like Joshua whom the Lord told, “Be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Josh.1:9). Children of God endure very little today. Men like Joshua, Paul, John the apostle, John the Baptist were men who endured. Today, Baptists get a spiritual hang-nail and they are ready to throw in the towel as the saying goes. Paul stated, “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” (2Tim.2:10).

Beloved, God is seeking a man to stand in the gap; a man who will sell out for the Lord; a man who will suffer reproach for His Name’s sake. Let us prayer fervently and earnestly that God will raise up these men and set over His churches and that churches will call these kind of men and follow them as they follow the Lord!