

I SOUGHT FOR A MAN THAT SHOULD STAND IN THE GAP EZEKIEL 22:23-31

Text: Ezek. 22:30

Introduction:

The day in which God was looking for the man was a day of wickedness. Notice with me this was a:

1. Day of Idol Worship. (vss 3)

(Ezekiel 22:3 KJV) "Then say thou, Thus saith the Lord GOD, The city sheddeth blood in the midst of it, that her time may come, and maketh idols against herself to defile herself."

2. Day of Innocent Blood Being Shed. (vss 4)

(Ezekiel 22:4 KJV) "Thou art become guilty in thy blood that thou hast shed; and hast defiled thyself in thine idols which thou hast made; and thou hast caused thy days to draw near, and art come even unto thy years: therefore have I made thee a reproach unto the heathen, and a mocking to all countries."

3. *Day of Deceitfulness (vss 7)*

(Ezekiel 22:7 KJV) "In thee have they set light by father and mother: in the midst of thee have they dealt by oppression with the stranger: in thee have they vexed the fatherless and the widow."

4. *Day of Despised Holiness (vss 8)*

(Ezekiel 22:8 KJV) "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths."

5. *Day of Profaning the Lord's Day. (vss 8)*

(Ezekiel 22:8 KJV) "Thou hast despised mine holy things, and hast profaned my sabbaths."

6. *Day of Sexual Perversion (vss 10-11)*

(Ezekiel 22:10-11 KJV) "In thee have they discovered their fathers' nakedness: in thee have they humbled her that was set apart for pollution. {11} And one hath committed abomination with his neighbour's wife; and another hath lewdly defiled his daughter in law; and another in thee hath humbled his sister, his father's daughter."

7. Day of Greed (vss 12)

(Ezekiel 22:12 KJV) "In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD."

8. Day of Forgetting the Lord (vss 12)

(Ezekiel 22:12 KJV) "In thee have they taken gifts to shed blood; thou hast taken usury and increase, and thou hast greedily gained of thy neighbours by extortion, and hast forgotten me, saith the Lord GOD."

9. Day of Uncleaness (vss 24)

(Ezekiel 22:24 KJV) "Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation."

10. Day of Barrenness (vss 24)

(Ezekiel 22:24 KJV) "Son of man, say unto her, Thou art the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation."

11. Day When the Lines of Distinction Had Been Erased. (vss 26)

(Ezekiel 22:26 KJV) "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."

12. Day When The Preachers Had Confused Holy Things. (vss 26)

(Ezekiel 22:26 KJV) "Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they showed difference between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them."

13. Day of Dishonesty (vss 27)

(Ezekiel 22:27 KJV) "Her princes in the midst thereof are like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, and to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain."

14. Day of False Prophets (vss 28)

(Ezekiel 22:28 KJV) "And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken."

The days that we have looked at are much like things today. Each and every thing that God drew attention to is going on today.

I believe God is still looking for a man that will make up the hedge and stand in the gap.

Notice with me this morning:

1. THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE GOD HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR THOSE TO STAND IN THE GAP.

A. When the Midianites oppressed the people God found Gideon.

B. When David had sinned and committed murder God found Nathan

C. When Pharaoh oppressed the children of Israel God found Moses

D. When Goliath stood and defiled the army of Israel God found a shepherd boy named David.

E. In the days of prohibition God found Billy Sunday.

Note:

While we're looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.

While we're looking for a new recipe; God is looking for quality ingredients.

2. THE REASON GOD WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE.

A. Prophets had sold themselves and were for sell. (vss 25,28)

(Ezekiel 22:25 KJV) "There is a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof."

(Ezekiel 22:28 KJV) "And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken."

1. Prophets were being bought off.

a. Preached a popular message.

b. They didn't want to hear about God's judgment.☒

2. Preachers today are selling out to those that write him his check.

3. We need some preachers today who have "NOT FOR SALE" written across their chest.

a. Dare to be a Daniel

b. Dare to make it known.

c. They'll go into the lions den if that's what it takes but they'll preach to this dying nation that Jesus is strong and mighty to save. And there is a Hell to shun and a Heaven to gain.

B. The Priests were condoning sin.

1. Its OK if it feels good.

2. If that's your conviction it is OK.

Illustration:

We need some old fashion, Hell fire, shingle rattling, barn storming, Devil hating, Jesus loving, preaching.

Note:

When the prophets aren't giving out the Word of God and the Priests are not leading in the worship of God and the politicians aren't leading in the ways of God, the people are forsaken and lose the knowledge of God.

3. WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS GOD LOOKING FOR?

A. A man of vision and volition. (Prov 29:18)

(Proverbs 29:18 KJV) "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he."

1. Vision is the ability to see that which is invisible.
2. Volition is the power to make the invisible material.
 - a. Dream big.
 - b. Every invention was once an idea.

B. A Man of Faith and Firmness

(Philippians 4:13 KJV) "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

1. One must have faith and be firm to stand in the gap.

(Ephesians 6:10-13 KJV) "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. {11} Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. {13} Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

2. One must have faith and be firm to make up the hedge.
3. One must have faith to have a vision.
4. One must be firm to be a person of volition.

C. A man of Integrity and Independence.

Illustration: Little boy lying all the time.

D. A man of Decision and Dependability.

Illustration: The greatest abilities are availability dependability.

E. A man of Patience and Perseverance.

Illustration:

Nehemiah building the wall - Didn't quit - Kept of keeping on

F. A man of Power and Prayer.

Illustration: Daniel

(Daniel 6:10-13 KJV) "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. {11} Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. {12} Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. {13} Then

answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king, nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day."

Close:

Let me remind you that God is still looking for those that will make up the hedge and stand in the gap.