



Pastor Derrick Shields “Soul Food: Standing In The Gap” 10/10/2021

Key Verses:

- Exodus 17:17-18, Luke 5:17-26

Key Thoughts:

- Soul: *the capacity to integrate all parts (will, mind, body) into a healthy, whole life.*
- Exodus 17 isn't the only time the people of Israel came to Moses complaining (examples: Exodus 15:23-25, 32:11, 14, Numbers 11:2, 12:13, 14:19, 16:46-48). In each of these instances, Moses' response was to go to the Lord on the people's behalf.
- “A major difficulty in sustaining one's mission is that others who start out with the same enthusiasm will come to lose their nerve. Mutiny and sabotage come not from enemies who opposed the initial idea, but rather from colleagues whose will was sapped by unexpected hardships along the way.” -Edwin Friedman
- What Moses was doing is what we know as intercession. Intercession can be defined as carrying people into the presence of God, to cry out on their behalf, and to listen to God for their next steps. The very people who are giving you the hardest time are there for you to intercede for.
- This isn't going to God to complain about people. It's carrying them into the presence of God without any agenda except to hear from God for them.
- Moses refused to take the weight of the people's expectations on his shoulders. Instead, he placed that on God. If we want to preserve our souls, it's essential for us to take our intercession on behalf of others to the Lord and not keep that ourselves.
- Romans 8:26-28 tells us that sometimes we just don't know what to pray for, but the Holy Spirit will intercede for us when we don't know how to do it ourselves.
- Sometimes our prayers are for what we think needs to be done, but instead we should come before God and listen to what he says about the person or situation. This is intercessory prayer that is in alignment with the heart of God.
- Luke 5:17-26 tells the story of a group of friends that were so insistent on interceding in their friend's life that they lowered him into the presence of Jesus through a roof.

Discussion Questions:

- When have you found yourself accepting the larger-than-life role of playing God in people's lives? What was the impact on your soul?
- What place does intercession have in your relationship with others?
- Do you find intercession to be “weighty and burdensome”? Why?
- Do you think the people you are in relationship with you see as a person who is regularly entering into God's presence on their behalf?