

Our Desperate Need for a Mediator

1 Samuel 7:7-17

Introduction:

1. In this text, Israel had been in bondage to their sinful idolatry. They had followed false gods and were in a state of alienation from God Almighty.
2. The man of God, Samuel, lets Israel have it right between the eyes. He tells them to repent of their sin, return to the Lord, put away their strange gods, and prepare their hearts unto the Lord. vs. 3
3. But there was a major problem. In verse 7, Israel's enemies, the Philistines, gathered against Israel and threatened to annihilate them.
4. The children of Israel knew that they had been in an alienated position from God. They needed somebody to go to bat for them. They needed somebody to be a mediator between them and God so that they could find grace in God's eyes and deliverance from death.
5. They cried out to Samuel (vs. 8) to intercede for them. Samuel did just that. He went before God and offered a lamb as a sacrifice and cried unto the Lord. God heard him (vs. 9) and God did save Israel from sure death and destruction.
6. What a picture of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We were alienated from God by wicked works. We had no hope. The wages of sin is death. Death and destruction awaited all of us. We couldn't save ourselves. We needed a mediator between us and God.
7. We needed somebody to go to bat for us before God and do something to save us. Christ did just that. In Romans 5:6 and 5:8, Christ offered Himself as the Lamb of God to die for us!
8. Christ took the debt that we deserved to pay and paid it in full. He bore the penalty for every one of our sins on the cross. Christ became the perfect mediator between us and God. He was sinless and perfect, therefore He alone could mediate for us and rightfully choose to pay our sin debt. 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:14-15
9. What does Christ's intercessory work mean to us on a practical level?

First, it means that we can be reconciled to God.

1. Because Samuel mediated for Israel, Israel's cities were able to be restored back to them. vs. 14
2. Because Jesus Christ has mediated for us, we are able to be restored—or reconciled—to God.
3. Did you know that every one of us has been alienated from God by our sin? Romans 3:10, 23
4. The Bible teaches that we are dead in trespasses and sins. Every person needs to be reconciled to God. This is why Christ came to this earth. 1 Timothy 1:15
5. What a wonderful event, when two parties that are at odds are reconciled. What keeps reconciliation from happening?
 - One of the parties refuses to admit he is wrong.

- One of the parties refuses to admit there is a problem.
 - One of the parties refuses to accept the mediator.
6. Jesus Christ is the Mediator between mankind and God. He died our death for us, and then rose from the dead. Hebrews 7:25; Romans 5:10
 7. Christ will reconcile you to God if you will simply come to Him and believe completely on Him. If you refuse the Mediator, reconciliation cannot take place.

Second, it means that we can be delivered (saved).

1. After Samuel's intercessory work, it says that *"the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines."*
2. Did you know that Christ's intercessory work means that we can now be saved? You may ask, "Saved from what?"
 - Saved from God's wrath - Romans 5:9
 - Saved from our sins - Ephesians 2:5
 - Saved from eternal destruction - 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:14-15
3. As our Mediator, Christ took the judgment that we deserve. He received the wrath of God on that cross as He became sin for us. 2 Corinthians 5:21
4. Do you remember earlier when we saw 1 Timothy 2:5? *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
5. Do you know how He is able to be that Mediator? The next verse says, *"Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."*
 - He paid the ransom price so that we could be set free. Galatians 1:4
6. Did you know that God's heart is for you to be saved? (1 Timothy 2:4) There is a mediator and He has done everything needed for you to be reconciled to God and brought into a right relationship with God.

Third, it means that we can now have peace with God.

1. After Samuel's intercessory work, Israel had peace. vs. 14
2. Because of Christ's great intercessory work on the cross, we can now have peace with God.
 - Illustration: Two parties are at odds, but a mediator steps in and brings reconciliation between the two. They are now at peace.
3. We were alienated from God because of our sin, but Christ is our Mediator. He interceded for us on the cross. Because of this, Christ has made it possible for sinful man and a holy God to be made at peace.
4. How does this peace happen? Here is the best part: It happens by simply trusting Jesus Christ, the Mediator. The moment you place your faith in what He has done on your behalf, you are instantly made at peace with God. Romans 5:1
5. Colossians 1:20 is a glorious verse. It proclaims, *"...having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself..."*

In Conclusion:

1. Many people are under the false assumption that they have to keep a laundry list of rules, commands, or religious rituals in order to be brought into peace with God.
2. But this is not true. Thank God we have a Mediator who has already provided everything necessary for us to be brought into a peace relationship with God. That Mediator is Jesus Christ.