



Easley Church of God

Oct 9, 2022

Sermon Series: The GAP-1

Key Scripture for this Series:

Ezekiel 22:23-31

23 Again a message came to me from the Lord: 24 “Son of man, give the people of Israel this message: In the day of my indignation, you will be like a polluted land, a land without rain. 25 Your princes[a] plot conspiracies just as lions stalk their prey. They devour innocent people, seizing treasures and extorting wealth. They make many widows in the land. 26 Your priests have violated my instructions and defiled my holy things. They make no distinction between what is holy and what is not. And they do not teach my people the difference between what is ceremonially clean and unclean. They disregard my Sabbath days so that I am dishonored among them. 27 Your leaders are like wolves who tear apart their victims. They actually destroy people’s lives for money! 28 And your prophets cover up for them by announcing false visions and making lying predictions. They say, ‘My message is from the Sovereign Lord,’ when the Lord hasn’t spoken a single word to them. 29 Even common people oppress the poor, rob the needy, and deprive foreigners of justice. 30 “I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn’t have to destroy the land, but I found no one. 31 So now I will pour out my fury on them, consuming them with the fire of my anger. I will heap on their heads the full penalty for all their sins. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken!”

John 8:31-32

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

A GAP is a space in-between, or a break in a barrier such as a wall, or a difference in character.

Meaning of Breach: A compromise, a weakness, a breakdown, or a failure that jeopardizes something else of value.

Quote from an interview with Christian Post:

"We've been more cultural Christians than biblical Christians. Our identity is to be rooted in the Imago Dei, in the image of God. But we've gotten so ingrained in the thinking of the culture, that we wind up being parakeets to what the society is saying, rather than taking a solid, loving but clear stance on what God is saying."

~ Tony Evans

2 Timothy 3:1-5

1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

THE GAPS IN THIS WORLD:

1. _____ of God's Word verses the _____ of _____.

THE GAPS IN THIS WORLD:

2. _____ verses _____.

Romans 3:22-23 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

THE GAPS IN THIS WORLD:

3. Living in God's _____ verses living in your _____.

2 Timothy 3:5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

Ephesians 1:19-21 I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power 20 that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. 21 Now he is far

above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

STANDING IN THE GAP:

1. God is looking for people to stand in every _____ of _____ in God's kingdom.

a. Ezekiel 22:23 Again a message came to me from the Lord:

b. Land was _____, without rain.

Ezekiel 22:24 "Son of man, give the people of Israel this message: In the day of my indignation, you will be like a polluted land, a land without rain.

c. _____ plot conspiracies just as lions stalk their prey.

Ezekiel 22:25 Your princes plot conspiracies just as lions stalk their prey. They devour innocent people, seizing treasures and extorting wealth. They make many widows in the land.

d. _____ violated God's instruction and defiled My holy things.

Ezekiel 22:26 Your priests have violated my instructions and defiled my holy things. They make no distinction between what is holy and what is not. And they do not teach my people the difference between what is ceremonially clean and unclean. They disregard my Sabbath days so that I am dishonored among them.

e. _____ are wolves who tear apart and destroy people's lives.

Ezekiel 22:27 Your leaders are like wolves who tear apart their victims. They actually destroy people's lives for money!

f. _____ say false visions, lying predictions, as if from God.

Ezekiel 22:28 And your prophets cover up for them by announcing false visions and making lying predictions. They say, 'My message is from the Sovereign Lord,' when the Lord hasn't spoken a single word to them.

g. _____ oppress others, steal, obstruct justice.

Ezekiel 22:29 Even common people oppress the poor, rob the needy, and deprive foreigners of justice.

STANDING IN THE GAP:

2. God is looking for people that will be an _____ to show _____.

a. Ezekiel 22:30 I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one.

b. Genesis 18:26, 32

26 So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes."

32 Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten."

STANDING IN THE GAP:

3. God is looking for people that will stand where _____ has been _____.

a. Isaiah 59:1-2 Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

b. Isaiah 59:14-15 So justice is driven back, and righteousness stands at a distance; truth has stumbled in the streets, honesty cannot enter. 15 Truth is nowhere to be found, and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey. The Lord looked and was displeased that there was no justice.

c. John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

d. Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

e. Choice: You can push _____ or you can live in _____ where that can only happen in the company of truth (Jesus).

Conclusion:

Jesus said, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

The truth becomes our freedom!

We can stand in the GAP and rebuild walls of righteousness!

To guard the innocent against the deceit of this evil culture!

Reflection:

As we stand in the GAP, we have the assurance that God is our Defender!