

BC 26 – Sole, Suffering, Successful Mediator

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ: **Is Jesus really fearsome and hard to approach as the Roman Church believes?** Because they taught this, they developed this whole theory about getting pre-mediators – saints who could go to Mary, who would go to Jesus, who would go to the Father. One billion people believe this!

Then there are more than one billion others who **see Jesus as a wonderful, gentle man who is kind and accepts all, and will send none to hell.** So it is important to get this teaching clear.

Our headings are:

The Sole Mediator

The Suffering Mediator

The Successful Mediator

Our goals are: **That seeing this great work of Christ for you, you will have a high esteem for him and you will praise his better and more consistently.**

The Sole Mediator

We believe that **we have no access to God except through the one and only Mediator and Intercessor:** Jesus Christ, “the righteous.” Christ, therefore, was **made a human being, uniting together the divine and human natures,** so that we human beings might have access to the divine Majesty. Otherwise we would have no access.

1. When God made Adam and Eve they had regular access to God.

In fact, the Lord Jesus regularly met with them. And it surely was a blessed time of communication. You know that Jesus and Adam and Eve communicated regularly from the fact that they recognized Jesus when he confronted them about their sins!

Genesis 3: 8 And they **heard the sound of the LORD** God walking in the garden in the **cool of the day,** and Adam and his **wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD** God among the trees of the garden.

This relationship between Adam and Eve and Jesus did not last, of course, and man became dead in his sins. Ephesians 2:1. All their natural descendants lost that ability to communicate in that sweet communion.

2. But that relationship that was so cruelly broken by Adam and Eve was restored by Jesus; not one else could do it.

Man ate from the tree and Christ had to die on the tree.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men,** the Man Christ Jesus,

In order to be fit to die, Jesus **had to become man,** and **give up much of his Divine glory.**

With this done, Paradise was beginning to be restored.

Romans 8: 34 **Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died**, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us**.

This one and only Mediator pleaded with his Father to accept you back.

John 17:9 **"I pray for them**. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

3. Consider 3 things.

a. Those who don't have Jesus communicating with them and for them with his Father are going to hell.

b. This means you must bring the communication of this Mediator –the Gospel - to the world so that they might be saved.

c. So don't be ashamed to speak of the exclusivity of Jesus. Men, women, boys, and girls are going to hell without the Gospel.

d. This means that if someone does not speak the same truth of Jesus he must be condemned as a deceiver and liar, as leader of men to hell, and as worthy of eternal damnation. There are many paths in this world, but only one leads to heaven.

The Suffering Mediator

But this Mediator, whom the Father has appointed between God and us, **ought not terrify us by his greatness**, so that we have to look for another one, according to our fancy. For neither in heaven nor among the creatures on earth is there anyone who loves us more than Jesus Christ does. Although "in the form of God," Christ nevertheless **"emptied himself,"** taking **"human form"** and **"the form of a slave"** for us; and he made himself **"like his brothers"** and sisters in every respect." Suppose we had to find another intercessor. Who would love us more than he who gave his life for us, even though "we were his enemies"?

1. So how could the only one who could be your Mediator help you?

Jesus Christ became a **Suffering Servant** to make things right with God for you. He brought you near to him by his blood, so you don't need to fear. It is the wicked who **can't come near because of fear**, but you can come to him boldly!

Hebrews 10: 19 Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and having a High Priest over the house of God, 22 **let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of**

faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

The High Priest could not enter the Holy of Holies with sin, lest he was killed. But now you can enter that holiest place because Jesus blood is on you. **No one comes near to one of whom he is terrified.**

2. Christ's departure from the earth did not deal a death blow to his closeness to you and his intercession for you.

Rather, he continues to call on his Father for you. **He continues to serve you!**

Hebrews 7: 23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives** to make intercession for them.

Based on his self-sacrifice, he now (present tense) ever lives (qualified) to make supplication for you. Look again.

1John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

Your Savior is your lawyer...and he is the best lawyer as he is **guaranteed to get the best results for you.** He **paid the bill with his blood**; he never charges you. **One who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client.** This is remarkably true in the spiritual sense, as you are bound to lose.

3. There are things to learn from your serving Mediator.

a. Because your Mediator loves you with a love strong enough to suffer and die for you, you can pour out your heart to him and know that he will always serve you in the best way.

b. In line with your Mediator, you must learn to sacrifice yourself for others, rather than demand to be served. Be humble. Be ready to lose sleep for your brother or sister. Give up some time. Give up some money.

The Successful Mediator

(I will read this; please follow.)

And suppose we had to find **one who has prestige and power.** Who has as much of these as he who is seated at the right hand of the Father, and who has "all authority in heaven and on earth"? **And who will be heard more readily than God's own dearly beloved Son?** We should not plead here

that we are unworthy—for it is not a question of offering our prayers on the basis of our own **dignity but only on the basis of the excellence and dignity of Jesus** Christ, whose righteousness is ours by faith. Since the apostle for good reason wants us to **get rid of this foolish fear**—or rather, this unbelief—he says to us that Jesus Christ was “made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest” to purify the sins of the people. For since he suffered, being tested, “he is able to help those who are tested.” And further, to encourage us more to approach him he says: **“Since, then, we have a great high priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let **us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness**, so that we may receive mercy and find grace, to help in time of need.” The same apostle says that **“we have confidence** to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus. **Let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith...** Likewise, Christ **“holds his priesthood permanently.** Consequently he **is able** for all time **to save** those who approach God **through him**, since **he always lives to make intercession** for them.” What more do we need? For Christ himself declares: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” **Why should we seek another intercessor?** Since it has pleased God to give us the Son as our Intercessor, let us not leave him for another—or rather seek, without ever finding. **For, when giving Christ to us, God knew well that we were sinners.** Therefore, in following the command of Christ we call on the heavenly Father through Christ, our only Mediator, as we are taught by the **Lord’s Prayer**, being assured that we shall obtain all we ask of the Father in his name.

1. Talk is cheap, but Jesus’ mediation is not - his real work for you - gets results.

He wins every time. For example, in his high priestly prayer, before he headed to the cross, Jesus prayed that his disciples might remain in the faith...except for one.

John 17: 11...Father, **keep through Your name those whom You have given Me**, that they may be one as We are. 12 “While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost **except the son of perdition**, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Only the son of perdition—Judas—was not saved. **This shows that the Father answered the prayer of the Son.** The others, though spread by the work of demons, were gathered together – just as Christ prayed. Again...

Acts 2:44 Now all who **believed were together, and had all things in common**, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

And again...

Luke 22: 31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, **Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you** as wheat. 32 **"But I have prayed for you,** that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

After Peter's denial, he was restored and gave his life for Jesus. Jesus' prayer was guaranteed to succeed.

2. So see the folly of trying to use dead human ancestors to approach God.

So the **faithless practice of honoring the saints as intercessors, in fact dishonors** them. That was something the saints never did nor asked for, but which in keeping with their duty, as appears from their writings, they consistently refused.

To try to pray through ancestors is to dishonor those ancestors. They can't do what others ask.

3. What are lessons to learn from your Successful Mediator?

a. You don't have to worry about your Mediator's ability to do the things you ask.

After all, he has the right standing and the power. Hear the Mediator's word. Look at Jesus' influence! Look at the assurance.

John 16: 23 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.

b. Jesus now challenges you to come near to the Father and to ask with assurance and confidence,

Hebrews 4: 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,** that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

It is time to ask for things...like a daughter might do when she is in good terms with her father, or like a son might tell his mother what is on his mind because he knows she cares.

This means the most personal struggles you may have...the most hopeless situations...you can still take to the Lord in prayer. Are you weak and heavy-laden? Take it to the Lord in prayer. This is a close relationship you have.

c. The goal of your prayer is to get the tools to properly serve the Lord, your successful Mediator.

John 15: 16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and **that your fruit should remain**, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Conclusion:

Jesus is the **sole Mediator** between God and man. All other gods are nothing. Jesus **suffered and continues to serve** his people, making supplications for them. **Jesus succeeded** in all he came to do!

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. When Jesus prayed for the 11 disciples, he prayed for you in Scarborough also. And his prayer is answered by his Father in the same way that his first prayer was answered. He prayed that you might come to faith and **that you might continue in the faith**. Praise God for that. **This same Jesus now daily prays for your forgiveness** for your sins of thought, word, and actions – even willful sins. Praise him even more.

2. Don't be reluctant to go to the Father in prayer. Pray the Lord's Prayer and its implications!

3. Is your life characterized by service to your Mediator's kingdom? Let duty spring from your deliverance...get your calling from the cross.

Finally, if Jesus is not your Mediator, you are going to the terrors of hell for eternity, period. Would you like to be saved by the only one who can make peace with the Father for you? Then call on the Father to accept Christ's work in his life and his death for you.