



Sunday 28th August 2016

Danny Hunt

Stand in the Gap

Ezekiel 22

This chapter holds a list of sins and judgement for Jerusalem. There are accusations against the princes, priests, officials, prophets and people. The Lord “looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one” (Ezekiel 22:30).

1. What does the image of a wall bring to mind? Is it a good or a bad thing?
2. What was the purpose of the wall-rebuilding project in Nehemiah’s time?

Danny described a wall of righteousness, justice and mercy. Its purpose is to protect people so they can enjoy life in all its fullness.

3. Read Amos 5:24, Isaiah 61:8, Micah 6:6-8. Notice the strong language in these verses, and even humorous hyperbole (Micah 6:7 – ten thousand rivers of oil). What does this tell us about how God views righteousness, justice and mercy?
4. How do you think God feels about gaps in the walls of righteousness, justice and mercy?

God appointed Ezekiel as a Watchman (Ezekiel 3:17), and we too can be Watchmen/women, to identify where gaps exist.

5. In looking around Melbourne today, where do we see gaps in a wall of righteousness, justice and mercy?
6. How can you identify where gaps exist in relationships and lives around you? Do you see evidence of gaps – brokenness, pain or anger?

We don’t only need Watchmen/women to point out gaps, God needs people to stand in those gaps and intercede for our family, friends, city and world. We need to take responsibility for the gap in front of us.

7. Do you find it easy to stand as an example before others? What about when the world in general doesn’t agree with you?
8. Can you think of some current situations where you are (or where you need to be) standing in the gap for others, interceding for them before the Lord?





We read in Romans 3:23 that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”. But God sent his own son to stand in the gap for us. The price for sin has been paid, the gap need never be filled in the same way again – this is indeed Good News!

9. Read Romans 5:8 – do you remember how you felt when you first read/heard this verse?
How do you feel when you read it today?
10. Who needs to hear this Good News today?
11. What does Romans 8:26 tell us about intercession?

There are many examples of powerful Christian movements over the years which have brought about revival and changed lives. Research the Moravian Prayer Vigil - a 24 hour prayer vigil that lasted 100 years. Why not draw a picture of a wall with gaps – a family member who doesn't know the Lord; broken relationships; famine, disease, war and suffering; current political situations you know would not please God; homelessness and poverty; domestic violence – as you identify breaks in the wall, put yourself in that gap and intercede for others in that situation.