

- Ezekiel 22:30 ...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.
- The reality gap
 - Difference between the ideal and the real
- Ideal was established in Creation including free will
- Real was when humanity chose to rebel against God
- Everyone lost the ideal
- Now everyone has to deal
- The Gap may, or may not have anything to do with your level of faith and discerning the difference

Biblical Illustrations of the Gap

- God and Israel -
 - Ezekiel 22:24, 30 (NLT) — 24 “Son of man, give the people of Israel this message... 30 I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall ...but I found no one.
- Contrast - Moses
 - Exodus 32:9–10 ...Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them...
 - Exodus 32:12 ...Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people!
 - Exodus 32:14 (NLT) — 14 So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.
 - 2 Chronicles 7:14
- God wills that all be saved
 - 2 Peter 3:9 ... He does not want anyone to be destroyed but wants everyone to repent.
 - 1 Timothy 2:3–4 ...who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.
 - Ideal – all are saved
 - Real – people reject God's way of salvation
 - Real - Acts 4:12 There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.”

- Fields Ripe for Harvest
 - Matthew 9:37–38 (NLT) — 37 He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few. 38 So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields.”
 - Matthew 10 - Jesus sends the 12 to go to God's lost sheep and announce that the kingdom of heaven is near
- **Example of Ideal** - Tabernacle Building Project – Exodus 35 – 36
 - Offerings for the building of the tabernacle
 - Don't prepare anymore gifts, we have enough

Standing in the Gap yourself – how to deal**Examining the Ideal**

- James 4:2–3 ...You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it....And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong...
- James 4:13–15 ... “If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.”

Examine the Deal

- David's “Deal” with his wanting for more
- 2 Samuel 12:8–9 ...I would have given you much, much more.
- Deal – development of a perspective of Divine Providence and the Sovereign will of God
- Deal and the free will of others
 - Colossians 3:13–14 (NLT) — 13 Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you...

When you are someone else's gap

- Dealing with Expectations
- Sowing the seeds of Grace

Pressing for the ideal

- A spirit of excellence
- More than “just get by”
- Understanding the real
 - Especially when others are involved
- Learning to deal
 - Ask God for grace
 - Examine your ideal
- Patiently wait for the ideal – if not in this life, in the life to come
- Revelation 21:3–5