



Lesson Two: Abraham's Prayer for Sodom Genesis 18:16-33

Robby Higginbottom – September 20, 2022

Genesis 18:16-33

¹⁶ Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. ¹⁷ The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has promised him." ²⁰ Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to Me. And if not, I will know."

²² So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will You then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶ And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

²⁷ Abraham answered and said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸ Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will You destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And He said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹ Again he spoke to Him and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰ Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹ He said, "Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake

of twenty I will not destroy it.”³² Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”³³ And the LORD went His way, when He had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is prayer built upon the foundation of God’s character?
2. What aspects of God’s character shape Abraham’s prayer? Our prayers?
3. What aspects of God’s character are true but not real to us?
4. What evil do we see around us in Dallas? What evil do we see inside us?
5. In the face of great evil, are we more likely to (a) do nothing, (b) look out for ourselves and our people, (c) pray for judgment, or (d) pray for mercy? Why?
6. What is Abraham’s argument in his prayer for Sodom?
7. How does Jesus relate to Abraham’s argument? What does this mean for us?
8. Why should an experience of salvation lead to a ministry of intercession?
9. When we think about Christ, our needs, and the world around us, how is the Lord leading us to pray for our city this week?

*Spend some time praying for one another
and for the city of Dallas.*