



Midweek Study

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In the Footsteps of

FAITH

Genesis 12-36



The Power of Intercession

(Genesis 18:16-33)

"Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men and women. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for Powers equal to your tasks." -**Phillips Brooks**

"Pray as though everything depends on God. And work as though everything depended on you." -**Augustine**

"Much as he hopes that Lot and his family might be rescued, he is not so narrow or selfish as to think only of these. One might almost say that with a heart kindled by the love God imparts to faith, Abraham ventures to lead the case of God's love over against God's righteousness." -**H.C. Leupold**

"Some years ago, my wife, Ruth, was reading the draft of a book I was writing. When she finished a section describing the terrible downward spiral of our nation's moral standards and the idolatry of worshiping false gods such as technology and sex, she startled me by exclaiming, 'If God doesn't punish America, He'll have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah.'" -**Billy Graham**

Yet in spite of Lot's denunciation of their lifestyle, he liked the good life of Sodom's society. He preferred making money off its citizens to staying in the hills where there would be no filthy living, but also no "good life."

I. Abraham's Privileged Position (22-23)

God's revelation finds response in His servant's intercession. When we intercede, it implies there is a spiritual relationship with God.

II. Abraham's Earnest Spirit (23, 24)

Abraham's prayer is for the whole city and not merely for his nephew, Lot. Abraham **prays specifically** for what he wanted. Abraham prays with boldness, without hesitation or fear. He courageously sought what he believed was God's will.

III. Abraham's Urgent Plea (23-25)

It bothered Abraham that the destruction of Sodom would involve the destruction of righteous men along with the wicked ones. So... he told God about his concern. Abraham was concerned that the heathen would get a wrong impression of the God of Abraham.

IV. Divine encouragement (26)

Abraham's prayer is met with a Divine response. God met Abraham's request by a definite promise that if He found 50 righteous, He would spare the place

V. Abraham's Deep Humility (19:27)

²⁷ Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, **I who am but dust and ashes** have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord:

Abraham's deep friendship with God is never allowed to make him forget his true position of dependence on God. He also had an equally real and deep knowledge of himself.

VI. Abraham's Earnest Persistence (29-32)

Six times Abraham intercedes for the wicked cities. His heart is drawn out in pity and compassion. He pleads again and again.

VII. God's Gracious Answer (19:27-29)

²⁷ And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. ²⁸ Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace. ²⁹ And it came to pass, when God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when He overthrew the cities in which Lot had dwelt.

Somehow or other he must have expected that God would at least deliver the one righteous man that was in Sodom, and not destroy him with the rest. Lot's preservation was directly connected with Abraham's intercession.

The Solemn Responsibilities of Intercession (1 Samuel 12:23)

Samuel teaches us that we are actually sinning against God if we do not pray for others. Intercession demonstrates our spiritual interest in others.

²³ Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

The Blessings of Intercession

God has included in the great purpose of redemptive love the power and blessing of prayer for others. If we would take seriously what our prayers would do for the world, we would take up this work of intercession in a way never realized previously.

The essential Conditions of Intercession.

We can only intercede in proportion as we abide in close fellowship with God. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it will be done unto you. (John 15:7) Asking in Jesus' Name (John 14:13; 16:23) is another way of stating the need of connection and communion with God.