

How Intercessory Prayer and the Mercy of God work Together

Sunday, April 5/20 --- Genesis 18:1 – 19:38

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord. Then Abraham drew near and said, 'Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?' - Genesis 18:22, 25

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. – James 5:16

The nature of Abraham's intercessory prayer is eminently instructive for believers today. Far too often we pray as if we must overcome God's reluctance rather than seize upon His willingness.

John J. Davis, Paradise to Prison

Sermon Outline:

- I. Prayer that Responds to the Mercy of God (18:16 – 21; 19:13)

- II. Prayer that takes a Stand for the Justice of God (18:22 – 33; 19:27)

- III. Prayer that Aligns itself with the Purposes of God (19:1 - 29)

- IV. Prayer that leaves a Legacy in the Will of God (19:30 – 38)

Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- i. Do we sometimes forget that God hears the outcries of injustice on earth? What might have been the outcry that God heard from Sodom in the days of Abraham?
- ii. What does Abraham's prayer life in Ch. 18:22ff teach us about God? What do we learn about intercessory prayer from Abraham?
- iii. What do you make of Lot's wife and his sons in law? Why do you think they were not saved? What is the lesson?
- iv. Overall, if we compare Abraham's life to Lot's, what are the differences between the two men? What can we learn about the decisions of our lives?