

Abraham: Life of Faith

Week 10 – Genesis 19:1-29

Ice Breaker Question:

Think of a time when you wish you were like God and could just put a stop to something.

Going Deeper from Sunday

Sermon Synopsis

In Genesis 19, the Lord (in the form of two messengers) visits Sodom. They are welcomed by Lot, but the townspeople have other plans for them. They convey to Lot the message that the Lord is going to destroy the city, so he and all his family should leave first thing in the morning. And so God judged Sodom, while the messengers in response to Abraham's petition took Lot and his wife and daughters out of the city. The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is a lesson about both judgment/destruction, and deliverance. Lot and his family resisted being delivered and clearly were influenced by the life of Sodom., indeed his sons-in-law refused to go, his wife looked back became as one judged (a pillar of salt).

Key Application

Our world too will face judgment, and God calls us to choose to follow him and believe in Jesus, our deliverer, and to not be stained by this world as we live here.

Follow-up Questions

Genesis 19 is a long and a difficult passage. You can read it as a group, or skim it to review if most people remember the text.

Are there any reflections or questions you had from Sunday's Sermon?
What tensions, conflicts and emotions did you observe as you read this passage or listened to the sermon?

One of the purposes of the text is to show how God was justified in judging Sodom. List as many things as you can in the text that accomplish this? Read Ezekiel 16:49-50. See if you can identify these elements in the narrative of Genesis 19.

Compare the three ways the visitors were received/treated by 1) Abraham, 2) Lot, and 3) the people of Sodom? Why does the Lord rescue Lot? (See v. 29)

Do you struggle with the idea of God judging people? Imagine yourself living under a brutal regime--like Nazi Germany or the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia--with a dictator who killed your family? Would you want that regime toppled and judged?

The text is as much about the judgment of Sodom as it is about the deliverance of Lot. Lot first goes to live near Sodom in Gen 13, then he is living in Sodom in Gen 14, now it appears he may even be a leader in Sodom as one of their judges at the gate of the city. At the least he is firmly entrenched in Sodom. How has living in Sodom influenced Lot and his family? (see vv. 8, 16, 26 and 31ff)

What do you think made Lot's wife turn back? What things tempt us to 'turn back' from following Jesus? James 4:4 says: "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred towards God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." Do we really believe the seriousness of the consequences of turning back?

If you have time, read Luke 17:26-35, if not skip to the final question. Jesus says the story of the judgment of Sodom is instructive to us. How many different ways can you see Jesus finding this story instructive?

What is God's word to you from Genesis 19? Do you have something you can take away from our discussion to apply in your life? Take a moment to reflect, and perhaps share it with group.