

## Sermon Title: We Need An Intercessor Too!

### Sermon Text: Genesis 18:16-19:13

Has someone ever interceded for you on your behalf? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had to intercede for someone else on their behalf? \_\_\_\_\_

Stories of intercession can leave a lasting impact upon us, whether we are the ones interceding for someone else or someone else is interceding for us!

Abraham plays the role of intercessor here in Genesis 18. God revealed to him that He was about to destroy the whole city of Sodom because of their sin, & Abraham responds by standing before the Lord, interceding for them!

We see Abraham living into his calling (**Genesis 12:2-3**) – He was blessed to be a blessing. Abraham tries to save the city of Sodom (especially Lot & his family), by appealing to God on behalf of the people there!

I wonder, do we pray/appeal to God and intercede on the behalf of others like Abraham does here in Genesis 18? Even for those who aren't family or friends... Our Eprayers, the missionaries we support, world problems...?

Abraham prayed a prayer of intercession, and it was:

- A modest prayer – He did not demand to know God's secret plan or purpose for the city of Sodom, he simply modestly prayed for them.
- A humble prayer – Abraham didn't come with a sense of entitlement. He knew God didn't have to answer his prayer, but he prayed anyway.
- A persistent prayer – Abraham interceded for Sodom six times. And with each prayer, God was drawing Abraham further! Prayer does that!
- A persuasive prayer – It was a prayer that pleaded with God that His own character & glory would be revealed through this action!

Prayer is powerful... Whether God answers our prayers the way we want Him to or not, God works through prayer – He intends it to be the means by which He often chooses to act!

God heard the outcry against Sodom & Gomorrah (prayers) – **Vs. 20-21**. BUT...

- Was the city really that bad?
- Did everyone in Sodom really fall into this category of **"grave sinners"**?
- Is total destruction and death to all it's inhabitants truly warranted?

The two men (angels) went on to Sodom to investigate, but the Lord stayed back to hear Abraham's prayer of intercession on their behalf.

**"Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?' Suppose there are 50/45/40/30/20/10 righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for ... righteous who are in it?"**

Abraham appeals to God's justice & mercy, in hopes of sparing them all!

For justice wouldn't be served if the righteous perished with the unrighteous! And how could mercy be attributed to God if total destruction was the result?

His mercy does get revealed right here in Abraham's prayer, by being willing to spare the whole city for even a small righteous presence there!

But God's justice is also about to get revealed because of the angel's report about the true condition of the people of Sodom - **Vs. 4** – **"the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young & old, all the people to the last man..."**

No one in Sodom was exempt from this display of total wickedness.

But what about Lot & his family? We even see Lot succumb to a wickedness – willing to give his daughter over to an angry sexual mob! Lot was not exempt, & as we will see later, his wife & daughters were not exempt either!

There were none righteous in Sodom and so God decreed that ultimate destruction was coming upon that city – **Vs. 13**.

But God, in His mercy, does warn Lot & provides a way of escape for him & His family amidst the destruction – revealing God to be both just & merciful!

Here are some questions for us to wrestle with today:

- 1) Does the same evil reside in our cities and in the people of our day?
  - **Romans 3:9-18**
- 2) Are we any less deserving of God's wrath than the Sodomites?
  - **Romans 3:23, Romans 1:18-32**
- 3) Is there anyone who can intercede on our behalf like Abraham did?
  - **Romans 6:23, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25**
- 4) How should we live in response to God's justice and mercy?
  - **Philippians 2:1-13** With both fear/trembling & comfort/love

## Sermon Title: We Need An Intercessor Too!

### Sermon Text: Genesis 18:16-19:13

Has someone ever interceded for you on your behalf? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had to intercede for someone else on their behalf? \_\_\_\_\_

Stories of intercession can leave a lasting impact upon us, whether we are the ones interceding for someone else or someone else is interceding for us!

Abraham plays the role of \_\_\_\_\_ here in Genesis 18. God revealed to him that He was about to destroy the whole city of Sodom because of their sin, & Abraham responds by standing before the Lord, interceding for them!

We see Abraham living into his calling (**Genesis 12:2-3**) – He was blessed to be a \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham tries to save the city of Sodom (especially Lot & his family), by appealing to God on behalf of the people there!

I wonder, do we pray/appeal to God and intercede on the behalf of others like Abraham does here in Genesis 18? Even for those who aren't family or friends... Our Eprayers, the missionaries we support, world problems...?

Abraham prayed a prayer of intercession, and it was:

- A \_\_\_\_\_ prayer – He did not demand to know God's secret plan or purpose for the city of Sodom, he simply modestly prayed for them.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ prayer – Abraham didn't come with a sense of entitlement. He knew God didn't have to answer his prayer, but he prayed anyway.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ prayer – Abraham interceded for Sodom six times. And with each prayer, God was drawing Abraham further! Prayer does that!
- A \_\_\_\_\_ prayer – It was a prayer that pleaded with God that His own character & glory would be revealed through this action!

Prayer is powerful... Whether God answers our prayers the way we want Him to or not, God works through prayer – He intends it to be \_\_\_\_\_ by which He often chooses to act!

God heard the outcry against Sodom & Gomorrah (prayers) – **Vs. 20-21**. BUT...

- Was the city really that bad?
- Did everyone in Sodom really fall into this category of **“grave sinners”**?
- Is total destruction and death to all it's inhabitants truly warranted?

The two men (angels) went on to Sodom to investigate, but the Lord stayed back to hear Abraham's prayer of intercession on their behalf.

**“Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?’ Suppose there are 50/45/40/30/20/10 righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for ... righteous who are in it?”**

Abraham appeals to God's \_\_\_\_\_ in hopes of sparing them all!

For justice wouldn't be served if the righteous perished with the unrighteous! And how could mercy be attributed to God if total destruction was the result?

His mercy does get revealed right here in Abraham's prayer, by being willing to spare the whole city for even a small \_\_\_\_\_ presence there!

But God's justice is also about to get revealed because of the angel's report about the true condition of the people of Sodom - **Vs. 4** – **“the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both young & old, all the people to the last man...”**

No one in Sodom was exempt from this display of total \_\_\_\_\_

But what about Lot & his family? We even see Lot succumb to a wickedness – willing to give his daughter over to an angry sexual mob! Lot was not exempt, & as we will see later, his wife & daughters were not exempt either!

There were none righteous in Sodom and so God decreed that ultimate destruction was coming upon that city – **Vs. 13**.

But God, in \_\_\_\_\_ does warn Lot & provides a way of escape for him & His family amidst the destruction – revealing God to be both just & merciful!

Here are some questions for us to wrestle with today:

- 1) Does the same evil reside in our cities and in the people of our day?
  - **Romans 3:9-18**
- 2) Are we any less deserving of God's wrath than the Sodomites?
  - **Romans 3:23, Romans 1:18-32**
- 3) Is there anyone who can \_\_\_\_\_ on our behalf like Abraham did?
  - **Romans 6:23, Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25**
- 4) How should we live in response to God's justice and mercy?
  - **Philippians 2:1-13** With both \_\_\_\_\_ & comfort/love