

WANDERING

FROM THE KNOWN TO THE UNKNOWN

Part 6 – “For Goodness’ Sake”

Genesis 18, 19

Engage Question

A simple yet profound question that gets us thinking.

What upsets God the most?

Context: Read Genesis 18:1-15

- Abraham is quick to entertain strangers passing through his home. (*Heb 13:2*)
- He goes to extremely great lengths for a “little bread” and “some water” (*Gen 18:6-8 cf. 18:4-5*)
- Through conversation, God himself reveals to Abraham that he will have a son that year. (*18:10*)
- Sarah laughs (*18:10-13*) and God responds that nothing is too difficult for the LORD (*18:14*).

What does God’s conversation with Abraham reveal about Abraham’s faith? What does it reveal about Sarah’s faith?

READ: Genesis 18:16-22

- God chooses to reveal to Abraham what is to come because He has chosen Abraham to be a blessing and to bless surrounding nations.
- What method of “blessing” will his family utilize to bring about God’s promise? (*18:19*)
 - *Right* – **יְדָרָה** right deeds, honesty, loyalty
 - *Just* – **מִשְׁפָּט** the act of administering justice
- God responds because of the “outcry” of the people (*18:20*) **Outcry** – **תַּעֲרָה** is used in the Bible to for the cries of the oppressed and brutalized.
 - The cry of the widow or orphan (*Ex 22:22, 23*)
 - The cry of the oppressed servant (*Deut 24:15*)
 - The cries of Israel in Egypt (*Ex 2:23; 3:7, 9*)



- The cries of the attacked in Jeremiah (*Jer 18:22; 20:16; 25:36; 48:3-5, 34*)
 - Righteousness and justice together show a way of living in community that promotes life for all members. Life-promoting verse death-producing.
 - What is the sin of Sodom? How does this help to redefine the character of God? *Eze 16:49-51*
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- A better rendering of 18:22 would be "The LORD remained standing before Abraham."
 - What does this reveal about the character of God?
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READ: Genesis 18:23-33

- Abraham begins his work of blessing the nations by interceding on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah.
 - He flips bad few vs. good few. (Think: 1 bad apple spoils the bunch)
 - Though Abraham may not have a full understanding of God's character, what parallels do you see between Abraham's intercession and Jesus' intercession? (*Luke 23:34; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25*)
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For further reflection:

1. How am I producing what is right and just in my community?
2. In what ways am I allowing my surrounding to change me?
3. What do I see more clearly about the character of God this week?

