

**Where Wickedness Rules - Gen. 18:20-25; 19:12-16**

11-8-15

**I. Man's Sin - Gen. 18:20-21**

1. God's judgment is demanded by the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah
  - A. Two prominent cities in Canaan when Abraham migrated there (**verse 20**)
  - B. Today their location is unknown
2. Their sin was much broader than just homosexuality
  - A. "Grievous" - to be heavy  
-severe sin
  - B. These people ignored the Lord and continued in their sin - Gen. 13:13
  - C. Their sin became a picture for wicked behavior for all time - Dt. 32:32; Is. 1:10; Jer. 23:14; 2 Pet. 2:6
  - D. Their sin caused an "outcry"  
-the creation could no longer tolerate it
3. God does not punish sin without warning
  - here God warns Abraham
  - God's response shows us God responds to sin
4. God comes to inspect (**verse 21**)
  - no appeal is allowed
  - Abraham does object, however

Rea

Rea **Ideas:**

1. Why do you think that Sodom and Gomorrah have always been seen (across the pages of scripture) as the epitome of sin?
2. At what point does God so judge? - when does He pull the trigger to wipe some off the map?
3. Does this mean God is not patient?

**II. Abraham's Intercession - Gen. 18:22-25**

1. Appeals to God's justice (**verse 22**)
  - A. The "men" - two angels - Gen. 19:1  
-they leave and Abraham is left with the third guest  
-in human form - "man"
  - B. "Stands" before Lord - addresses God, for the judged in Sodom
2. "Approaches" God (**verses 23-25b**)
  - A. After all God had already approached Abraham
  - B. They are under/ within "covenant"
  - C. He is an intercessor

Rea

-the idea of intercession is fleshed out in such encounters... Jesus now intercedes for us. It is perhaps the most noble form of prayer to "lay it out there" for those we love.

3. He has two motives:
  - A. He wants to prevent the annihilation of the cities people  
-would you destroy for "fifty?"

- Rea -sounds like an attorney arguing for the lives of the people
- B. He wants to know the Lord better  
-he wants to clarify what God is doing
- Rea -? Not sure I see this
- Rea 4. Far be it from you - this is not like you... this is not the God I know. The God I know doesn't destroy whole cities.
- Rea 5. It is just to destroy the wicked. So the city got "justice"
6. "Judge" (**verse 25c**)
- A. The ruler/ judge
- B. Over all the earth
- C. He asks a rhetorical question - will not a just God judge justly?
- Rea -what gives Abraham the right to ask such a question of God? Just because he did it does not mean he was right to do it?
- Rea -note that God does not wipe him off the face of the earth

Rea **Ideas:**

1. Is your prayer life like this? Can you say these type things to God? - is it okay to get mad at God?
2. Is he arguing with God... like a lawyer might?
3. At the end of the day our understanding of God's "justice" is just as limited as our understanding of how God created the earth.

### III. God's Grace - Gen. 19:12-16

1. Deliverance from sin is God's grace
2. The appearance of these angels seems to have been the same as men (**verses 12-13**)  
-angels in the empty tomb  
In Mt. 28:5 and John 20:12 - they are seen as angels  
In Mark 16:5 and Luke 24:4 they are described as men
3. Angels at Gen. 19:1 are described as men  
-the people of Sodom saw them to be humans - 19:5
4. Lot persuaded them to take refuge in his home - knowing they were in danger  
-Lot hid them in his home and offered his daughters to the mob (19:6-11)

Rea -what a prince of a dad!

Rea -a believer can act like that?

5. The angels came to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah

A. Note the repetition of the word "destroy"

B. No power could prevent the destruction

Rea -there is escape however... they could flee as Lot's family did

C. Their "salvation" did not come because they were worthy... it came because of the nature of God - an act of grace

D. However, God's offer of grace demanded a response

Rea -we should not understand this passage to teach that God saves us without our free will. The sons-in-laws rejected God's offer of free grace. We may reject God's offer in Jesus as well.

6. They tell him to warn his family (**verse 14**)  
 -at verse 12 the Word says “get them out of here”  
 Rea -God got Noah and family out (and into a boat) before judgment “fell”  
 A. He makes an effort to get his daughters and their fiances out  
 B. Legally (by marriage customs of their day) they were married - making them sons-in-laws  
 C. Being warned his in-laws thought he was joking
7. As the sun begins to rise there is new urgency (**verses 15-16**)  
 A. Since the sons-in-law rejected the word they did not escape  
 B. Lot hesitated to leave - the men (angels) grabbed him  
 Rea -is it okay to grab people and force them to leave the way of the devil? -  
 should you force your loved ones into drug rehab?  
 -our writer makes a good point that the way of sin holds an ongoing attraction to us
8. The Lord is shown to be “merciful”  
 Rea **Ideas:**  
 1. Back up from this passage... God did not have to warn anyone -that’s mercy  
 -He did not have to save anyone - that’s mercy  
 -He did not have to come check out their sin - that’s mercy  
 2. Angels going into Sodom to “get em’ out” reminds me of Jesus coming into our world to “get us out”  
 3. Do you think God always warns before He judges?  
 4. Discuss why the sons-in-laws did not leave

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