

The Lord, Sodom, and Abraham

Gn 18 ¹⁶ Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. ¹⁷ And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, ¹⁸ since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." ²⁰ And the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, ²¹ I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know." ²² Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³ And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴ Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous that were in it? ²⁵ Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶ So the LORD said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." ²⁷ Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who am but dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: ²⁸ Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it." ²⁹ And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do it for the sake of forty." ³⁰ Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do it if I find thirty there." ³¹ And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of twenty." ³² Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy it for the sake of ten." ³³ So the LORD went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

► The first part of ch18 is very _____, but then it seems to change, but it really doesn't, for God will use the situation in _____ to mature Abraham in his knowledge of God and His ways (17-19).

Jer 9 ²⁴ "[L]et him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD.

► God _____ Abraham into a conversation about righteousness, judgment, and lovingkindness by making it seem that He is going to destroy the righteous with the wicked (20-21).

► Abraham animatedly challenges the LORD based on the LORD's own _____ (23, 25).

► God will do the same thing with _____ in Exo 32 when the children of Israel worship the golden calf.

Exo 32.7 And the Lord said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! ¹⁰ Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot ... and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation." ¹¹ Then Moses pleaded ... ¹² "Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out ... to kill them ...'? Turn from Your fierce wrath ... ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel ... to whom You swore by Your own self ..., 'I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven; and all this land ... I give to your seed ...'" ¹⁴ So the Lord relented ... ³¹ Then Moses ... said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin ... ³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book"

► Abraham makes the same argument as _____, only in a less sophisticated way (24-32).

► Abraham is really concerned for _____ and his family, whom A. has already _____ once (ch14).

► What Abraham doesn't know, but will learn, is that there aren't _____ righteous in Sodom. Nevertheless, God is going to rescue the righteous, then judge the wicked.

► I want to call attention to the methodology of God's training of his children, for that is something we are supposed to _____ when God entrusts children to us.

Eph 5¹ [B]e imitators of God as dear children.

1Cor 11¹ Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

► When God's children are young, He emphasizes _____.

Eph 6¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Col 3²⁰ Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Gn 12¹ Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you." (cf. Hb11.8)

Mk 1¹⁷ "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ... 2¹⁴ "Follow Me."

► When God's children are _____ enough, He lets them in on what is going on and engages them in conversation.

Jn 15¹⁴ "You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."

Mt 16²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. ²² Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Prov 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: ²To know wisdom and instruction, to perceive the words of understanding, ³To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity; ⁴To give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion— ⁵A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel

► As God is growing us up as his sons and daughters, we want to understand his goals and methods, so that:

1) We _____ with him in the process.

2) We _____ our brothers and sisters in the process.

3) We _____ God with the children he entrusts to us.