

Heart & Home

On the Journey with Abraham

Lesson 7

The truths in Genesis 18 and 19 and Romans 1 are the most culturally unacceptable teaching of our day. Yet, this is God's word. It's part of Abraham's story. We could skip it and move on to a less controversial topic. But as Paul in Galatians 1:10 asks, *Am I trying to win the approval of men, or of God? If I were trying to please men, I would not be a servant of Christ.*

Since I want to be a servant of Christ, we shall continue with these passages. **NOTE:** There are more questions & readings this week than normal, so you may want to set aside additional time.

READ Genesis 18:16-33

1. From verses 16-19, what is God's motive for taking Abraham into His confidence?
2. Look at verses 20-21. Since we know that God already knew the state of Sodom & Gomorrah's sin, why did he make this statement?
3. Consider the word, "outcry." See it again in chapter 19, verse 13. Who or what is crying out?
4. In the next several verses, what is in Abraham's mind as he keeps asking God about the number of righteous people for whom He would spare the city?
5. Who ended the conversation, God or Abraham?

READ Genesis 19 in one sitting. Enter into the emotion and the drama of it; don't just read it academically. This is real. It really happened as described. (See I Cor. 10:6 and Rom. 15:4)

6. Why did Lot insist that the two angels spend the night in his house, rather than in the square? Was he just being hospitable?
7. How many men from the city participated in calling out to Lot to release the men to them?

8. What was Lot's relationship to the men of the city? What did he think of their request?
9. What was Lot's solution to the problem? Write down what might have prompted Lot to propose this solution.
10. The Law was not yet instituted. Do you think the men of Sodom felt they were doing wrong in their actions? (See v. 9 for a clue).
11. How did the Sodomites know their actions were wrong? See Romans 1:18-20.

READ: Romans 1:18-32

12. What descriptive words do you see in verses 26-27? From both Genesis 19 and Romans 1, what conclusion have you made regarding what God thinks of the acts being talked about? What do you think is the meaning of the last phrase in verse 27?
13. Return to Genesis 19. From verses 16-17, why was Lot and his family rescued? (see also v. 29) Where did the angels tell Lot to go?
14. What was Lot's response? What does the angel's response tell you about Zoar? State where Lot and his daughters ultimately ended up and why.
15. From verses 27-28, what might be going through Abraham's mind as he viewed the cities?
16. Consider Lot's daughters, v. 30-36. What was the state of their minds, hearts and emotions as they did what they did?
17. **READ II Peter 2:6-10.** Do you find it surprising that Lot is called "righteous"? Discuss your thoughts about this.