

Marching Orders Pt 1a

Genesis 18:22-23

- We started the win part of our Win-Send-Disciple series, and last week we talked about the motivation part of being someone who seeks to be used in such a way that people come to know the Lord. Now we are going to look at how that translates in our practical lives and what that should look like in the daily decisions that we make in our days, weeks, and months, and that starts with our attitudes, for that drives our perspective and ultimately our lifestyle.
- This week in our “**In the Beginning**” series we saw how Abraham upon hearing that the Lord was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah didn’t start a celebratory dance and shout about time Hallelujah give those God rejecting, disobedient, rebellious sinners exactly what they deserved. Instead he humbly approached the Lord and not to give suggestions about a better way of disciplining them, he came near to the Lord to ask the Lord is it possible to spare some of them.
- **Genesis 18:20-22**- the angels turned away to go to Sodom and Gomorrah but Abraham sought to draw closer to the Lord and he asked “**if God would destroy the righteous along with the wicked**”, of course Abraham asked this question knowing what the answer was because he understood and knew the character of the Lord. Then he went on to ask God six times about the number of people who if they served the Lord that He would spare the cities, again what makes this story so remarkable is the backdrop of the people that Abraham was interceding for.
- **Chapters 11-12** we are told that God spoke to Abraham to leave his family and follow Him to a land that He would show Sarah and him, but initially Abraham didn’t do that practicing “**partial obedience** which is full blown **disobedience**” by waiting first for his father to pass and then afterward taking his nephew Lot with him, and it led to strife and chaos within their ranks > **Gen 13:7-10**- when it came time for Lot to choose with spiritual growth in mind neither did he wait for the Lord to speak but instead he chose for himself believing that the area next to Sodom-Gomorrah was excellent for his cattle business and therefore would enhance him financially.
- In **Gen 13:12** Lot dwelt in the cities on the plain close but more like the suburbs of Sodom-Gomorrah, by the next chapter **Gen 14:12** he lived in the city of Sodom and is caught and captured in a war between nine ungodly Kings that he had no business being involved in, which caused Abraham to risk his and others lives to go and rescue him, afterward when given the choice to live somewhere else or dwell back in Sodom he chose the prosperity of Sodom.
- Despite Lot’s disobedience that has caused Abraham and his family problems who is that’s interceding unbeknownst to Lot on his behalf? Abraham could have taken the attitude of many of us and said > “I have witnessed to them, prayed for them, called them, multiple times, and what did I get in return a big fat plate of rejection, serves him right, and he has no one to blame but himself”, then went back to his home and celebrate what the Lord had said about them.

- This brings us to our second point about Abraham, he had just received wonderful news personally that he and Sarah were expecting another son who would be the heir that he had been waiting on for **25yrs**. He easily could have focused on that, and left the whole Lot, Sodom-Gomorrah business alone, but instead he injected himself once the Lord told him about it, this showed Abraham was not merely concerned with his good fortune but the well being of others.
- Is this your attitude toward the disobedient, the stubborn, the hard hearted? I had to examine myself, especially in light to seeing how Abraham just received the news he had been waiting most of his Christian life for, and now here's some other not so good news about his troubled nephew, I believe if Jesus Himself wasn't going to see about Lot then Abraham would have made another trip down there to try and rescue him, that I have no doubt of, what about you?
- **Gen 19:1** at this point Lot was no longer living away from Sodom, or apart from the people, he was not just inside the city but sitting at the gate implying that he was now a vital member of the community who made decisions concerning daily life in Sodom, and instead of Lot making an impact on them they had not only infected him but his entire family as we saw later on. If ever someone needed intercession Lot and his family did, In **Gen 19:27-29** we read how Abraham rose early probably praying all night for his nephew and because of him scripture says the Lord spared Lot, please don't ever underestimate the power of intercessory prayer folks.
- **1Tim 2:1-3** we are told to make intercession for all men and that to do so was pleasing and acceptable in the sight of God, so not only does this benefit the person, **V2** says it blesses us, and **V3** says its pleasing to the Lord, and still why aren't we doing it regularly, and encouraging the church and others as well? I'll tell you standing in the gap for others is work, it takes effort physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually, because you make yourself vulnerable to be hurt, disappointed, and discouraged, and so many make the decision that the cost is too much.
- In doing so we miss the greatest blessing that comes from this **Gen 18:23**- "**Abraham came near to the Lord**" when we intercede for others something miraculous happens for us "**we draw closer to the Lord**" inwardly, outwardly, personally, spiritually, minister ally, as every aspect of our lives becomes dependent upon us **leaning on** and **leaning into the Lord**. For we begin to hear His plans, understand His will, ask questions we already know the answer to, because we already know **His character, His Word**, and therefore we are not shocked by **His actions** Amen!