

Genesis 18-19 – 31 October 2019

“Opportunities to Influence”

Introduction

Chapter 12 begins with Abraham making a great commitment to God by leaving Ur of the Chaldees and coming into the land of Canaan.

Chapter 12-14 – then shows us Abram, the peacemaker, his resilience, his loyalty and integrity.

Chapter 15-17 is the primary Biblical text showing us that Belief + Nothing = Righteousness

We think of temptation as bad, but depends on source.

Read John 6:5-6 – Use our influence to tempt others.

Tonight, we'll see 5 opportunities to influence others.

We naturally influence people towards the things we're passionate about, but are they good things?

Chapter 18:1-15 presents the 1st Opportunity to influence others: Abraham with Sarah regarding believing God.

Read Vs 18:1-5

1. Heb 13:2 – tells us to entertain strangers b/c they may be angels.
2. Angels don't seem to have problem taking the form of people.

Read Vs 6-8

1. Abraham here breaks the “Traditions of the Elders” but isn't breaking the Law.
 - a. Law = Don't seethe a kid in his mother's milk. (Exo 23:19)

Read Vs 9-15

1. Sarah was thinking only from the natural point of view and not spiritually.
2. Read Eph 3:20 – exceedingly abundantly above
3. Sarah should have learned from Abraham.

Did Abraham attempt to influence Sarah based on what happened to him in chap 17?

1. Ab was just told a few months ago the same thing about a son & he laughed. (Chap 17:17)
2. What were those conversations like?
3. He has a great opportunity to lead his family in being believers, in having faith.
4. Those you're closest with need your encouragement to believe more than ever.
 - a. We need to remind those closest to us, "Is anything too hard for God?"
 - b. Remind them to trust in the promises of His Word.

Chapter 18:16-33 presents the 2nd Opportunity to influence others: Abraham w/ God regarding Lot.

Read Vs 18:16-17

1. Read John 1:18 – No man has seen God...
2. THIS is a Christophany
3. Turn to John 8:56-59
 - a. God the Son is the visible manifestation of God Himself.
 - b. Abraham knew God & was a friend of God.

Read Vs 18-19

1. Can the Lord say this about us?
2. Are you intentional about leading the children in your life?

Read Vs 20-21

1. The cry came up to God by prayer.
2. There's were only a few that cried.
3. What was Sodom's sin they were praying about? (Read Eze 16:49)

Read Vs 22-25

1. Ab's premise God never disputes is righteous should be delivered before judgement comes.
 - a. Read II Pet 2:9 then I Thes 5:9
2. "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"
 - a. Shall the Anti-Christ judge the church?
 - i. Read Matt 16:18 then Dan 7:21
 - b. We'll be saved in end days b4 judgement.
 - i. Turn to Luk 17:28-30 then II Pet 2:6-9

Read Vs 26

1. Ab has an influence with God regarding Lot.
2. It only takes one person to beg God for mercy.
 - a. Turn Luk 11:5-10 – importunity...
3. It only takes a few to be salt for an entire city.
4. Are u the salt for your...family, school, etc?

Read Vs 27-32

1. Take your opportunities to beg God for His mercy on those in your life.

Chapter 19:1-14 presents the 3rd Opportunity to influence others: Lot w/ his kids regarding life.

Read Vs 19:1

1. Hospitality was very important in this culture.
2. Gate = It was the honorable elders that sat here.

Read Vs 2-5

1. This is “to know them” sexually.
2. This is the outward sin resulting from the inward sins of pride and haughtiness of riches.

Read Vs 6-8

1. Show what low esteem women had.
2. Shows what high esteem visitors had.
3. Women be thankful Jesus puts you in your proper equal place with men.
 - a. Different roles but equality of value.

Read Vs 9-14

1. The problems in Sodom bothered Lot, but not enough to do anything about it.
 - a. Read II Pet 2:7-8
2. Although Lot could “withstand the temptations of Sodom”, his kids and other family couldn’t.
 - a. What kind of influence was Lot on his family?
 - i. How could his words speak louder than his lifestyle that was pursuing riches & power?
 - ii. We think, ‘oh it’s just a beer’ but what do our kids learn about it?
 - iii. Will our smoking lead to our kids on other drugs?
 - b. Our liberties may not “cost” us much, but what does it cost our kids?

Lot doesn't accept God for the course of his life, again

1. Read Vs 15-17 – This is the same expression a *harpazo*.
 - a. To be taken away by force.
 - b. Recommend Bill Gallatin's book *Biblical Types of the Rapture of the Church*.
2. Read Vs 18
 - a. Not so.....Lord – That's inconsistent!
3. Read Vs 19
 - a. God is delivering Lot, but Lot still doesn't trust that God's deliverance is good enough.
 - i. When splitting up with Ab, he didn't trust God's direction and supply.
 - ii. Now he does it again.
 - b. Don't we do the same thing, in not trusting?
4. Read Vs 20-22
 - a. Judgement has to wait until the righteous are removed.
 - b. Read II Thes 2:7 – He who lets, will let...

5. Read Vs 23-25

- a. Great salt deposits and oils in this area.
- b. This Potassium Nitrate and petroleum just needed some Glycerin from the brimstone.

Chapter 19:26-29 presents the 4th Opportunity to influence others: Lot w/ his wife regarding life.

Read Vs 19:26-29

1. Abraham had an influence on Lot by praying
 - a. Even without being present
2. But Lot didn't have an influence on his own wife, even though he was present with her.
3. Vs 26 could be translated that she lagged back or turned back.
4. So salt covered her and her area.
5. Guides will point to different pillars today as "Lot's wife". Watch out for those tour guides!
6. Read Luk 17:32-33; Seek gain life will lose it.
 - a. Jesus also said, "Remember Lot's wife."

7. Lot was a righteous man yet where was his influence with his wife?
8. Is the lifestyle that you're leading hindering the people closest to you from living for the Lord?

Now, we have confirmation of the corrupt influence that Sodom had on Lot's daughters in vs 30-38.

Read Vs 30

1. Notice Lot eventually succumb to God's plan for him to go to the mountains and not the city of Zoar

Read Vs 31-38

1. Thus the corruption of Lot's entire lineage because of his life's pursuits of the material gain instead of the spiritual goals of life and peace.
2. Moab and Ammon will be enemies of Israel hindering them at every turn.
3. Unlike many other nations, God does say that Moab, Ammon and Edom will last until the end.
 - a. See Jer 49

Conclusion –

Today we've looked at 4 opportunities to influence others.

1. Abraham with Sarah regarding her faith in God about having a baby.
 - a. Sarah could have learned from Abraham this lesson of faith that he just was told a few months earlier.
2. Abraham with God regarding Lot.
 - a. Are you interceding on behalf of others before God?
3. Lot with his kids regarding life lessons.
 - a. Is your lifestyle contradicting the words that you profess to your kids and those you care about?
4. Lot with his wife regarding life lessons.
 - a. Don't overlook being an influence with those you are the closest with.