

A. Sermon Slides

Slide 1: Title

Missional Mediation

Genesis 18:16-33

Slide 2:

Genesis 18:16–21 (ESV)

Then the men set out from there, and they looked down toward Sodom. And Abraham went with them to set them on their way. The LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring to Abraham what he has promised him.” Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

Slide 3:

Genesis 18:22–27 (ESV)

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Slide 4:

Genesis 18:27–33 (ESV)

Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are

“Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

Slide 5:

"Is prayer about more than just relationship with God? Can we really change God's mind through prayer? If so, how does that work? How can we change the mind of a God who already knows what will happen? I'm working through the spiritual disciplines on Wednesday's and we talk about prayer this week. I confess that I mostly have believed that prayer is relational...although I know that many believe it is far more! Any insight?"
Georgia Pastor

Slide 6:

Sermon Road Map:

- I. What is the Foundation of Prayer?
- II. What is our Posture Toward Ourselves in Prayer?
- III. What is our Posture Toward God in Prayer?
- IV. What did Abraham (and we!) Discover in Prayer?

Slide 7:

Prayer Foundation:

We are simply responding to a Living God as He is gracious enough to reveal Himself to us.

Vs 17: “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?”

Slide 8:

Have you been introduced to a God Who Disagrees with you?

Slide 9:

Slide 10:

Genesis 14:22–23 (ESV)

But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours...”

Slide 11:

Achan in Joshua 7

Slide 12:

Vs 26: And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

Slide 13:

When things are offensive to me about God...it's me, not Him.

Slide 14:

How Abraham sees himself:

- 1) Abraham knows who The Judge is (vs 25)
- 2) He sees himself as dust and ashes (vs 27)
- 3) He sees his life is in danger (vs 30, 32)

Abraham never reckons upon the graciousness of God

Slide 15:

How Abraham sees God:

Vs 25: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

Slide 16:

"Abraham "drew near" = "approach the bench"

Slide 17:

Two Non-Cases:

- 1) The Law is dumb

Slide 18:

What does Abraham discover...for all of us?

The Gospel

Slide 19:

When we bargain with God we are usually asking God to be somebody He is not and in return we promise to be somebody we are not

Slide 20:

Abraham has found a way through the impenetrable mountains of God's justice, but he can't find anyone who can walk it!

Slide 21:

We are saved through the One by which we find solidarity.

B. Group Discussion

1. Would you read this scripture again. Genesis 18:16-33?

What are some thoughts you have about this text? What are some of the lessons you would pull out to consider or talk further about?

2. Do you agree that prayer happens because, first of all, God is revealing Himself to us?

What are some examples of that in your own life?

3. Have you ever read a scripture that revealed God, and simply disagreed with the God being revealed? How do you handle that? Do you have examples of things that bother you about His leadership and sovereign rule?

4. Explain how we can be "friends" with God but also never forget our "place" in that relationship? In your own life have you found your prayer to be too knowingly intimate or too formal and inconsistent? How can that be reconciled?

5. Abraham approached God knowing that He had a right to Judge, and

do we question Him? What did Job learn in his questioning?

6. Finally, talk about Abraham's discovery. Why do we feel like it is okay to not agree with guilt by association, but we are counting so much on innocence by "association"?

Have you ever considered that this may be the appeal of "religion." That we don't really fully "buy in" to the idea of imputation?

7. Repent if needed. Pray and praise God for Who He really Is!