



Living Beyond Yourself Through Your Impression

Genesis 18:16-19

“The purpose of life is not to win. The purpose of life is to grow and to share. When you come to look back on all that you have done in life, you will get more satisfaction from the pleasure you brought to other people’s lives than you will from the times that you outdid and defeated them.”

- Rabbi Harold Kushner

I. God’s impression of Abraham concerning the Lord’s providence. (V.17)

What Was Going On?

Genesis 18:20 *And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;*

A. God was so impressed that he included Abraham.

Genesis 18:17 *And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do;*

Why did God feel it necessary for Abraham to be consulted concerning the destruction of Sodom?

- ◆ God had extended an invitation to Abraham to become a vital link in the story of redemption.
- ◆ Abraham had responded with unreserved allegiance and prompt obedience.
- ◆ The prospects of Abraham’s life would be of such importance that biblical history would originate from his life.
- ◆ Abraham would become a godly force to be reckoned with, and consequently placed in a position that would determine the fate of many.

B. God was so impressed that he inclined to Abraham.

Genesis 18:23 *And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked?*

II. God's impression of Abraham concerning the Lord's purpose. (V.18)

A. Abraham was destined for a life of influence because of his obedience.

Genesis 18:18 *Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.*

B. Abraham was destined for a life of affluence because of his obedience.

Genesis 22:16 *And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: (V.17) That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;*

"God does not want a place in your life. God does not want prominence in your life. God desires, God deserves, God demands preeminence in your life."

- Adrian Rogers

III. God's impression of Abraham concerning the Lord's pleasure.

A. Abraham had impressed God with his personal life.

Genesis 18:19 *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord,*

What was Abraham's reputation concerning his family?

- ◆ He could be trusted to be in control of his family, supervising and administrating his family in such a way that they followed the Lord's will.
- ◆ He could be trusted to teach and train them to walk in justice and good judgement.
- ◆ He could be trusted to fulfill the conditions of the covenant, so that God could fulfill what he had promised.
- ◆ He was responsible enough to live a life in which God could trust him with His blessings.

B. Abraham had impressed God with his public life.