

NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR GOD ~ Genesis 18:1-33

→ Scripture Reading Genesis 18:8-15 (NLT)

INTRODUCTION

TWO QUESTIONS IN PEOPLES MINDS...

- How will Abraham acquire the Land?
- Who will be the Heir?

NEAR EASTERN HOSPITALITY ~ Genesis 18:1-8 (ACT 1- scene 1)

[1] The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. [2] Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. [3] He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. [4] Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. [5] Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way--now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." [6] So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of fine flour and knead it and bake some bread." [7] Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. [8] He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

APPLICATION

This is the only place in Scripture - before the Incarnation - that the LORD ate a meal with a human being. Hughes

Isaiah 41:8 (NIV) "But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of **Abraham MY FRIEND...**

BECOMING FRIENDS BY...

- spending TIME together
- learning to TRUST each other
- growing LOYALTY to each other
- learning to LOVE the other person
- going through HARD TIMES together
- fighting the SAME enemies

James 4:4 (NIV) You adulterous people, don't you know that FRIENDSHIP with the world is hatred toward God? **Anyone who chooses to be a FRIEND of the world becomes an ENEMY of God.**

SARAH'S UNBELIEF ~ Genesis 18:9-15 (ACT 1- scene 2)

[9] "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. [10] Then the LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. [11] Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. [12] So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?" [13] Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' [14] Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." [15] Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Psalms 139:1-2,4 (HCS) LORD, You have searched me and known me. [2] You know when I sit down and when I stand up; You understand my thoughts from far away. ...[4] Before a word is on my tongue, You know all about it, LORD.

AS THE STORY UNFOLDS MOSES TELLS US...

- Sarai BARREN
- their AGE
- about the LAND
- about the HEIR
- the ongoing REVELATION of God to Abraham

APPLICATION

John 11:14-15 (NIV) So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe..."

Jude 1:24-25 (NLT) Now all glory to God, who is able to **keep you from FALLING away** and will bring you with great joy into **his glorious presence WITHOUT a single FAULT**. All glory to him who alone is God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

INTERCEDING WITH GOD ~ Genesis 18:16-33 (ACT 1- scene 3)

[16] When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. [17] Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? [18] Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. [19] For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him." [20] Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous [21] that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know."

WHY TELL ABRAHAM?

- he was to be a channel of BLESSING to the World vs. 18
- so that he would TEACH His Family to OBEY God vs. 19
- the OUTCRY of Sodom and Gomorrah was GREAT vs. 20

[22] The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD. [23] Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? [24] What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? [25] Far be it from you to do such a thing - to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"

God always does what is right regardless of how His actions might appear to us. Boice

TAKE AWAY ??

INTERCEDE - to PLEAD for or to make a REQUEST on behalf of another

ABRAHAM'S PRAYER OF INTERCESSION Boice

- HUMBLE - he did NOT demand
- PERSISTENT - he did NOT give up

1 Samuel 12:23 (NIV) As for me, far be it from me that I should **SIN AGAINST** the LORD by **FAILING to pray for you**. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.

Galatians 4:19 (HCS) My children, I am again suffering **labor pains** for you **until Christ is FORMED** in you.

To INTERCEDE for Others

- come HUMBLY to God
- come OFTEN to God
- do NOT Give up
- do it for THEM not for you