

## w/b 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015 LIVE - PRAY - DIE (Part 2) Dave Webb-Peploe)

INTRODUCTION: As Abraham pleads for Sodom & Gomorrah, we have a think about what principles we can learn from him in pleading for our lost world.

Genesis 18: 16-33 Abraham Pleads for Sodom

*<sup>16</sup>When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way. <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do? <sup>18</sup>Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>19</sup>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."*

*<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous <sup>21</sup>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."*

*<sup>22</sup>The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham approached him and said: "Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare<sup>[c]</sup> the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it? <sup>25</sup>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?"*

*<sup>26</sup>The LORD said, "If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."*

*<sup>27</sup>Then Abraham spoke up again: "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes, <sup>28</sup>what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?"*

*"If I find forty-five there," he said, "I will not destroy it."*

*<sup>29</sup>Once again he spoke to him, "What if only forty are found there?"*

*He said, "For the sake of forty, I will not do it."*

*<sup>30</sup>Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?"*

*He answered, "I will not do it if I find thirty there."*

*<sup>31</sup>Abraham said, "Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?"*

*He said, "For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it."*

*<sup>32</sup>Then he said, "May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more .What if only ten can be found there?"*

*He answered, "For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it."*

*<sup>33</sup>When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.*

## LAUNCH

- Can you remember the last time you had to represent someone or put in a good word on their behalf? Why did you do it? What skills did you need to employ in speaking up for them?
- Were you successful? Why or why not?
- Can you remember when someone put in a good word on your behalf? How did that make you feel?

## DISCOVERY

- If you were to describe 3 key character qualities about Abraham from this passage what would they be?
- If you were to describe 3 divine attributes about God from this passage, what would they be?

## UNDERSTANDING

- What key words does God use as reasons for including Abraham within his plans?
- Which of these benefits have been made available to us through Christ Jesus and by what means?
- How should it affect our praying knowing that we are God's friends or partners rather than simply his servants?
- Abraham was presented by God with a scenario in which he needed to respond quickly. What concerned him the most about God's decision as was revealed by his response? What scenarios in your life are concerning you at the moment and for what reason?
- In the sermon, a comparison was made between a social worker or probation officer preparing a report for a judge and us praying for the lost. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this illustration?
- 'Make prayer every turn of the steering wheel rather than just the spare tyre' Corrie Ten Boom. In what areas of your life would you benefit from applying this quote?

## APPLICATION

- Take some time to pray for those who need Christ. Pray for them by name and try to pray for specific outcomes within specific periods of time ie they will come to church in the next 2 weeks.