

## INTERCESSORY PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF FAITH

### GENESIS 18: 16-33

Introduction:

You are probably familiar with this incident in the life of Abraham. He has been walking by faith for a long time, but not perfectly as the record clearly shows. But he has grown enough in his walk of trust that God begins to trust him. God shares His secrets with those who walk with in faith.

The secret that God shared with Abraham had to do His judgment on Sodom and the prosperous cities of the plains. God was on His way to Sodom to make a final inspection before He poured out His wrath on these sinful cities. But when Abraham heard the bad news, he had a stake in the fate of Sodom. His nephew Lot was living in Sodom with his family. They would be swept away in the storm of judgment. So Abraham became an intercessor. Intercessory prayer is customary in the life of those who are walking by faith. They will be found holding up before God that fate of those around them; they will turn their understanding of the condition of sinful society in petitions to God for mercy.

Let's learn from Abraham.

#### I. THE REVERENCE OF THE INTERCESSOR.

1. He is made reverent by his awareness of the Person of God.

The intercessor knew that he was standing before the Judge of all the earth.

2. He is made reverent by his self awareness.

He confessed himself to "dust and ashes." He came with true humility.

#### II. THE REQUEST OF THE INTERCESSOR.

1. It was specific.

He started with 50 righteous men and moved down to ten.

2. It was selfless.

Intercessors are always praying about others--not selfish prayers.

3. It was bold.

It is in the boldness that we see the faith. He was confident in the character and the wisdom of God.

4. It was persistent.

When God said that He could not find fifty, Abraham moved onward in his petitions. This is the way of intercessory prayer.

### III. THE RESULTS OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER.

In spite of your first impression, the results are negative.

1. The intercessor grows in his knowledge of God.

Abraham moved up to another level of understanding after this session of intercessory prayer.

2. The intercessor receives mercy for some.

Abraham did not save Sodom, but he did secure mercy for Lot and his family. That is no small thing.

If your prayers are only the means to bring salvation to one, surely it will be worth it.