

The Pleading Priest

Genesis 18:16-33

I. The Pleading Priest

God invites Abraham in to this _____ role

20 *Then the LORD said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, **21** I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry..."*

The _____ of the victims of cruelty, violence, abuse and injustice is so great that I'm going down to see.

"Look, this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. They were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit."

(Ezekiel 16:49-50)

Notice the progression of sin. It starts with pride.

1. **Pride:** *She had pride.* Proud people feel _____ to do what they want when they want to.
2. **Wealth:** *fullness of food.* _____ greedy for more food, drink, and sex.
3. **Entertainment-driven Worldview:** *abundance of idleness.* A deep _____ and lack of concern (*overfed and unconcerned*). God did not create us to "amuse ourselves to death."
4. **A Lack of Mercy:** *neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.* God calls us to be merciful to others *for our _____ good as well as for the good of our community.*
5. **A Lack of Discretion & Modesty:** *they were haughty and committed abomination before Me* Do you take sin seriously? Sin is not a mistake—it's a _____ offence against a Holy God.

God _____ Abraham to intervene on behalf of Sodom

Abraham still stood before the LORD

He's like a _____ who approached the bench, to come with a case before the Judge

He is their Defense Attorney and Priest, pleading on their behalf!

1. His Prayer is _____

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 sake of fifty righteous who are in it?" (Genesis 18:23-24)

Abraham is praying for the city of Sodom itself ("the place") not just his family

2. His Prayer is so Theological

*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?*** (25)

Abraham assumes he is dealing with a righteous God & is pressing for what is righteous in this _____.

Could the righteous loving God save the unrighteous for the sake of the righteous _____?

God continues to say, "Yes!" "*For the sake of ten I will not destroy it*" (v.32).

So _____ is God's will to save, that he will spare the unrighteous many for the sake of a few.

The Pleading Priest

Genesis 18:16-33

Abraham's Priestly Prayer is an _____ Symphony...

How amazing are you God for saving the city for the sake of 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10...and we are waiting for Ab to ask, *"Would you save the city for the sake of _____ righteous person?"*

Abraham gets to ten and he goes home (v.33)

Abraham's prayer did not save Sodom; His priesthood is _____ enough.

II. We _____ a Greater High Priest

We need a High Priest who stands _____ before God on our behalf (Hebrews 7:24-25)
Abraham stood before the LORD (v.22) but Jesus always stands before God on our _____

Abraham risked his life but Jesus Christ _____ his life for the people He prayed for
Abraham discovered the principle that a righteous person could save the many unrighteous
But Jesus _____ the principle!

Jesus is the Righteous _____ who can save us to the uttermost!

If Jesus is your High Priest and Advocate, you will be _____ from the eternal wrath of God!

Sodom is a sobering reminder of the righteous _____ of God toward sinners

If you look to Jesus on the cross, where the perfectly Righteous One died for the unrighteous ones.

If you repent of your sins and _____ _____ to Him for mercy!

At that moment, Jesus becomes your High Priest

And as your High Priest, *"He draws near to God and always lives to make intercession for you"*

This High Priest's prayers are _____ answered!

III. The New Priest (that we can become)

1 Peter 2:9 is astounding!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

The Bible says that _____ _____ *a royal priesthood*, an office which was once only for Abraham, Moses, and Aaron is now the calling and office of every single believer!

Look at Abraham's _____ Life and look at His _____ Heart!

He was deeply _____ with God and deeply concerned for people!

Do you have an intimate prayer life like Abraham?

The only way you will become like Abraham is if you believe that Jesus Christ is your High Priest.

Abraham has a profound humility and _____.

Is Jesus Christ _____ High Priest?

Then you will be marked by _____: I am no better than anyone and will pray for all (even enemies).

But you will also have a profound boldness because you are _____ by Christ and made righteous in Him.