



## Crying Out for Others

By Jeff Bedwell on March 25, 2024

**TODAY'S READING:** Genesis 18

Abraham is called “the friend of God” three times in scripture (2 Chronicles 20:7; Isaiah 41:8; and James 2:23). We see this friendship demonstrated in the way that Abraham entertains and converses with the heavenly visitors as it is recorded in this chapter. There is much to focus on here, but we will be looking at some of the prayers of the Bible the next few weeks and that is where we will focus our attention today.

God is a God of love and justice. He is going to exercise a righteous judgement on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their overwhelming wickedness. Abraham, as a friend of God, is alerted to this impending judgment (vv. 17-21). Abraham begins to intercede on behalf of the people, made especially personal to him because of the presence of his nephew Lot. We can learn a great deal from his intercession.

- His intercession was based on the character of God (vs. 25).
- His intercession was done in humility and a recognition of the greatness of God (vs. 27).
- His intercession was persistent as he called out to God (vv. 22-32).
- His intercession was effective (see Genesis 19:29).

In a world that at times seems to be increasing in wickedness, we are not called to isolation, apathy, or passivity. We are called to live as salt and light. We are called, as Christ’s ambassadors, to lovingly share the one and only hope for a broken world and lost sinners, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our calling includes, and is empowered by, intercession in the mold of Abraham’s impassioned pleas.

Charles Spurgeon once said: “If they [lost sinners] will not hear you speak, they cannot prevent your praying. Do they jest at your exhortations? They cannot disturb you at your prayers. Are they far away so that you cannot reach them? Your prayers can reach them. Have they declared that they will never listen to you again, nor see your face? Never mind, God has a voice which they must hear. Speak to Him, and He will make them feel. Though they now treat you despitely, rendering evil for your good, follow them with your prayers. Never let them perish for lack of your supplications.”

With Good Friday and Easter Sunday approaching, let us recommit ourselves to the high and holy calling of intercession for those that are without the hope that is only found in Jesus Christ.

**PRAYER:** Father, in my flesh I too often find myself judging others instead of loving others. Make my heart more like Yours. Empower and direct me to cry out to You

interceding for others who are far from You. Use my prayers, my life, and my lips to be instruments of Yours in rescuing and redeeming others through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Exodus 15

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