

SERMON: GENESIS – SODOM AND GOMORRAH (Genesis 18)

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

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Sodom and Gomorrah were the epitome of wickedness in the ancient world. Yet, in spite of their wickedness, Abraham argues for God's grace. When we see wickedness, how do we argue? Do you we argue for judgment or grace? Thankfully, we have a God who argues on our behalf and who loves at all costs.

Then the Lord said, "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous..." – Genesis 18:20

Recall God's Plan & Promise for Abraham ...

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." – Genesis 12:2

God _____ Abraham.

Genesis 18:18

God needed to _____ Abraham and his descendants.

Genesis 18:19

Abraham and God _____ the people and Sodom and Gomorrah.

Genesis 18:22-32

Love _____.

1. Abraham defended _____ and _____.

2. God defended _____.

Genesis 19:24-25

Love exacts _____.

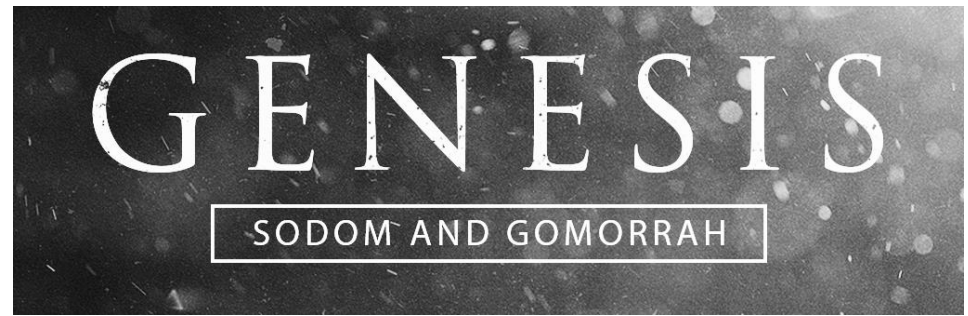
1. God's _____ work: Judgment

2. God's _____ work: Grace

The alien work of God is when He humbles us thoroughly, making us despair, so that He may exalt us in his mercy, giving us hope. – Martin Luther, *Heidelberg Disputation*

God Loves at _____!

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God – 2 Corinthians 5:21



Questions for individual or group reflection:

Who are some of the people that you love the most?

Would you do "anything" for them? To what limits?

Does the Biblical account of Sodom and Gomorrah trouble you?

If you were God, how would you have handled their sin?

Is sin really a threat to God and His people? To His mission?

Why do you think Abraham tried to spare Sodom and Gomorrah?

Why did God need to bring judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah?

How were God's Alien and Proper Work displayed in this Biblical Account?

How are God's Alien and Proper Work displayed in your life?

Are you able to see Judgment as part of God's Character, and in fact consistent with His Loving Nature?

Why has God spared you destruction and judgment?

How did He do it?

How will you live as a result of it?

Taking it home / Memory Verse:

"Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail." – Lamentations 3:22

GENESIS

SODOM AND GOMORRAH



Then the Lord said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and **their sin so grievous...**”

GENESIS 18:20

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”

GENESIS 12:2

God LOVED Abraham.

“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..”

GENESIS 18:19

God needed to PROTECT Abraham
and his descendants.

Abraham and God LOVED the people
of Sodom and Gomorrah.



Love DEFENDS...

Love DEFENDS...

1. Abraham defended SODOM &
GOMORRAH

²³ Then Abraham approached the LORD 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?”

GENESIS 18:23-25

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?**”

GENESIS 18:23-25

“If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, **I will spare the whole place for their sake.**”

GENESIS 18:26

²⁷ 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,
²⁸ what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will You destroy the whole city **for lack of five** people?”

GENESIS 18:27-28



**Family
Homelessness
Has A Solution**



Solutions for Change



Love DEFENDS...

1. Abraham defended SODOM & GOMORRAH
2. God defended ABRAHAM

²⁴ Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah – from the LORD out of the heavens. ²⁵ Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, **destroying all** those living in the cities – and also the vegetation in the land.

GENESIS 19:24-25



Before.



After.

Love exacts JUDGMENT

²⁰ “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.**”

GENESIS 18:20-21

Love exacts JUDGMENT

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- Martin Luther, *Heidelberg Disputation*



**God made him
who had no sin to
be sin for us, so
that in him we
might become the
righteousness of
God.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

²² Because of the Lord's great love **we are not consumed**, for His compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23

God Loves at ALL COSTS!

GENESIS

SODOM AND GOMORRAH

