

Begin Again! **Touching Heaven for Others!**

A Study of the Book of Genesis – Part 27 **Genesis 18:16-33 (NKJV)**

1. The Consecration of Abraham reminds us of the Requirement to Touching Heaven.

Genesis 18:33 (NKJV)

So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.

Genesis 18:33 (KJV)

And the Lord went his way, as soon as he had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place.

A. What is Implied about Abraham

James 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ . . . The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 2:23 (NKJV)

²³ And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*" And he was called the friend of God.

James 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ . . . Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Genesis 18:3 (NKJV)

³ and said, "My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your

John Phillips

"There are not many people, even in the Bible, to whom the Lord appeared in a visible manifestation in order to chat with them about family and foreign affairs. But He did so appear to Abraham."

B. What is Illustrated in Abraham

Psalm 24:3-4 (NIV)

3 Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

Psalms 66:18 (NIV)

18 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

2. The Condition of Sodom reminds us of the Reason for Touching Heaven.

A. Morally Corrupt

Genesis 18:16-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. ¹⁷And the Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, ¹⁸since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? ¹⁹For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." ²⁰And the Lord said, "Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

B. Divinely Condemned

Genesis 13:13 (NKJV)

¹³But the men of Sodom *were* exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

Genesis 18:21 (NKJV) ²¹I will go down now and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry against it that has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

Isaiah 59:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶He saw that *there was* no man, And wondered that *there was* no intercessor; . . .

3. The Compassion of God reminds us of the Result of Touching Heaven.

Genesis 18:22 (NKJV) ²²Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the Lord.

A. Persistent Prayer

Genesis 18:23-32 (NKJV)

²³And Abraham came near and said, "Would You also destroy the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there were fifty righteous within the city; would You also destroy the place and not spare *it* for the fifty righteous that were in it? ²⁵Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" ²⁶So the Lord said, "If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes." ²⁷Then Abraham answered and said, "Indeed now, I who *am but* dust and ashes have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: ²⁸Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for *lack of five*?" So He said, "If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy *it*." ²⁹And he spoke to Him yet again and said, "Suppose there should be forty found there?" So He said, "I will not do *it* for the sake of forty." ³⁰Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Suppose thirty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not do *it* if I find thirty there." ³¹And he said, "Indeed now, I have taken it upon myself to speak to the Lord: Suppose twenty should be found there?" So He said, "I will not destroy *it* for the sake of twenty." ³²Then he said, "Let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak but once more: Suppose ten should be found there?" And He said, "I will not destroy *it* for the sake of ten."

B. Persuasive Prayer

Genesis 18:33 (NKJV)

So the Lord went His way as soon as He had finished speaking with Abraham; and Abraham returned to his place.