

TEEN TALK: ABRAHAM ASKS FOR GOD'S MERCY; Theme: LESSONS FROM ABRAHAM

MEMORY VERSE: PSALM 25:6; Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

Also in Psalm 25, it says in verse 14: The Lord confides in those who fear Him; He makes his covenant known to them.

The day when the Angel of the Lord came to Abraham to tell him, that his wife would bear him a son, the angel also told Abraham something else. The Lord told him that He was about to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Do you remember that when Abraham and his nephew Lot went different ways because they had so many animals they could not feed them all in the same area?

Lot had chosen to go to the land where the city of Sodom was located and he now lived in the city. God warned Abraham that He was about to destroy the city where Lot lived. Lot was in danger!

Abraham negotiated with God. He asked, "will you destroy the righteous with the wicked?" "What if there are fifty righteous people in the city, will you destroy it?"

The Lord answered. "For the sake of fifty people, I will spare the whole city." Then Abraham said, "What if there are only forty-five righteous people there, will you spare the city for their sake?" Again God agreed to spare the city for the sake of forty-five people.

Abraham kept asking for mercy for the sake of the few righteous people in the city until he came to ten. God agreed to spare the whole city for the sake of a few. Abraham stopped at ten but. He must have assumed that there would be at least ten righteous people in the city but maybe he should have kept interceding for them because in the end, there were only three people who escaped the destruction of the city.

You can read about the destruction of the city and what happened to Lot and his family in Genesis 19. The Bible says that God is a merciful God. He had no desire to destroy these cities but did so because they were wicked. In Psalm 25:14; we learn that God confides in those who fear Him. When God told Abraham about His plan to destroy Sodom, perhaps He expected Abraham to intercede for the people.

Do you think that God would have spared the city for one righteous individual?
Consider another example.

In Jeremiah 5:1; God says, "Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city." This was at another time when God was judging the people of Jerusalem for their disobedience and was about to destroy their city.

Abraham was discovering the MERCY of God.

What do these examples teach us about how we should treat others?