

Life Group Notes
Sunday 11 February 2018

Speaker: Sean Green

Series: Confident Adventures

Title: God's Compassion & Judgment

Passages: Genesis 18:16-33

The Way of the LORD (v16-19). We join the story as Abraham's three visitors prepare to leave and go to Sodom. The LORD has restated that Abraham is to be the father of a great and mighty nation, that all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him. With this promise came the responsibility to direct his sons and their families to live right & just

Sin and its consequences (v20-21). The LORD invites Abraham into his counsel regarding the outcry from Sodom's flagrant sin (see Ezekiel 16v49-50). The holiness of God demands an assessment and judgment of sin. Without judgment, we have nothing to say to those who suffer injustice, oppression and violence (to name but a few of humanity's sins).

Exploring God's compassion (22-33). Abraham's response was framed by God honouring His own name (v25) and His compassion. Abraham is not haggling, rather exploring God's relationship with compassion and justice.

What happened next? Abraham settled for the city being spared for the sake of 10 righteous people. But it was worse than he thought. His nephew Lot and his vast household had come under the influence of sinful people. Abraham's prayer was insufficient to save the city. Lot survived, as did his daughters, but with a dire outcome (19v36-38).

What does this tell us about God? Firstly, it is important to God that we live right & just, as best we can. This is by faith in Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Secondly, we need to live with an awareness of His coming judgment. However, for the sake of one righteous person (Jesus) God will spare all those who place His trust in Him. Thirdly, the situation in Reading is both better and worse than we think. It's worse because the sinfulness of sin both devastates and stores up wrath from God. But it is also better because Jesus' prayer is sufficient to save those who place their trust in Him, none will be lost.

Suggested questions:

1. Why do we at RFC tend to shy away from judgment passages?
2. In your own words, what do verses 22-33 tell us about God?
3. Thinking about Lot, do you influence the city or are influenced by the city?