



STORY

Sodom and Gomorrah - Genesis 18:16- 19:29

TEACHER PRAYER

Dear Lord God, protect me from the many dangers of body and soul that are all around me in this wicked world. Let Your holy angels guard me so that no harm comes to me. I pray this also for my students that You have called me to love and teach. In these formative years do not let this sinful world attract them and lead them astray. Help them learn Your Word so that the message of Your love will keep them safe and secure in Your flock. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

VOCABULARY

righteous - one who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior

OUTER AIM

God answered Abraham's faithful prayer and showed mercy to Lot by rescuing him from wicked people.

INNER AIM

God shows mercy to us by rescuing us from Satan and this sinful world.

BACKGROUND

Today's lesson is a continuation of last week's lesson. The three men (two angels and the Son of God) are now about to leave Abraham. God had decided to destroy the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because of their great wickedness. Their sins sent a great cry to heaven. What was their sin? Not inhospitality--but homosexuality--a sin against God's law of man and woman sexual relationship. Cf. Romans 1:26-27 "For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

v. 23-25

Abraham's bold faith - not cocky or presumptuous but taking God at His Word; trusting His mercy and grace.

Luther's address to the Lord's Prayer: "with all boldness and confidence ask our dear Father."

James 5:16 says "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

v. 27

Note Abraham's humility as he realizes what he is before God

v. 31

How willing God is to withdraw His punishing hand and to forgive if the sinner will only turn from his evil ways! The Lord wants "All men to be saved." (1 Timothy 2:4)

2 Peter 3:9 God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Exodus 34:6-7 He is a "compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness."

v. 32 Not even for ten? Nothing could have shown more clearly than these words that God would much rather bless than punish.

It is because of the believers even now that the word still stands and is not burned up by God's wrath.

v. 2-3

Lot is like his uncle in that he is hospitable to the strangers.

Knowing the evil intent of the men of the city Lot encourages them not to sleep in the streets.

v. 4

The wickedness permeated both the old and the young. Total corruption is seen.

We see the extreme danger of putting ourselves into temptations.

Not only was Lot's faith tested daily, but his life was in danger. II Peter 2:7-8

v. 10-11

The Lord saved Lot by means of a miracle of His grace. II Peter 2:9

First article states "defends me against all danger, guards and protects me from all evil."

v. 14

Lot's daughters were pledged to be married to unbelievers.

They thought Lot was a fool. "Hell, it doesn't exist! End the world, you've got to be kidding!" We still hear that today. "God will punish. NO WAY!"

v. 15-16

Even Lot shows his weakness, at dawn he hesitates.

He was led out by the hand. Hebrews 1:14 calls angels "ministering spirits."

Abraham's fervent prayer had not been in vain. The believers were spared.

v. 17-20

Lot again shows his weak faith by not obeying the angels and does not go into the mountains. Would not the Lord protect, provide and sustain him there as well?

v. 24

How did the cities burn? The sulphur from heaven ignited the mineral pitch mines - burned to ashes as stated in 2 Peter 2:6.

Sudden destruction upon an unsuspecting people.

The end of the world?

v. 26

Lust of the world, materialism had taken such a strong hold upon Lot's wife that she could not stand leaving - parting from all she called her own. She took one last look - punishment was instantaneous. What a serious

warning to us ALL, especially in this materialistic society. "You cannot serve both God and mammon (riches)." 1 John 2:15-17, Luke 17:28-33

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Savior, help me be more and more aware of the many temptations and dangers that are all around me. This world is not a friend to us Christians. I thank You that through Your holy angels You are always watching over me and all of Your children and protecting us daily from harm. I pray You keep my heart in Your Word ruled by the Holy Spirit so that all that I think, say and do may be to Your glory. Lord, help me do this. Amen.

APPLICATION

1. The effectiveness of prayer. Encourage our children to pray every day for all people. To continue to pray and take God at His Word - He will answer according to His Will.
2. The Justice of God over against sin: God is a jealous God punishing those who reject Him, who refuse to submit to His will. His justice must be met. **IT HAS BEEN MET BY CHRIST!**
3. The mercy of God toward All: God is also a loving God willing to forgive and save to the uttermost. May we cast ourselves with repentant hearts upon God's mercy in Jesus Christ. It is because of Jesus' payment of our punishment that we are under God's grace.
4. The serious danger of worldliness - materialism: it leads us to live only for this life and not for the eternity of perfection and joy that Jesus has earned for us.
5. The warning especially today against homosexuality: about twenty years ago AIDS was just beginning, it wasn't heard of much. Today it is one of the biggest plagues earth has seen. God will allow only so much of man's haughty, proud rebellion. It is not God who makes a homosexual but the person allows his sinful lusts and desires to take over his body.
6. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is a type or picture of Judgment Day. It will be total and unexpected by all.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Psalms 145:18 - "The LORD is near to all who call upon Him."

Luke 17:32 - "Remember Lot's wife."

Middle

II Timothy 2:3-4 - "...God our Savior, desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

I John 2:15 - "Do not love the world or the things in the world."

Upper

James 5:16 - "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

II Peter 3:9 - "The Lord...is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

Hebrews 1:14 - "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

HYMN CHOICES

Come, My Soul, Thy Suit Prepare - TLH #45

The Man Is Ever Blest - TLH #414

And will the Judge Descend - TLH #610