

## **MEN'S LIFE BLOOMINGTON & GOD @ WORK**

*Tuesday, November 11, 2014*

# **Bargaining With God**

## **Genesis 18:16 to 18:33**

### **Major Segments:**

- Abraham eats with three guests, one of them is the Lord
- Walking toward Sodom the Lord decides to tell Abraham what He is about to do, in advance
- Abraham is bold enough to ask the Lord if He truly will go through with destroying the city
- Abraham, after finding the Lord is willing to change His mind, works the Lord into more leniency

### **Segment Questions:**

- Abraham is eating under a tent with three guests, at what point do you believe he understood the Lord was one of these guests? What do you think the Lord looked like? Stronger than the others, bigger, more talkative?
- Why do you think Abraham cared what would happen to Sodom? Why would Sodom be salvageable?
- Why do you believe the Lord wanted to “see for Himself”? How long do you think the Lord would search for righteous people before He made up His mind?

### **Action Questions:**

- In what instances have you found yourself negotiating a lesser penalty from God? For yourself, or others? Do you think the Lord would be so willing to give grace today?
- Do you find yourself calling for the job of a poorly performing coach? What is it about today's quick trigger society, and how can you be a calm, graceful voice in the crowd?
- What do you think the Lord would want us to learn from this bit of history? If He wants us to know He can be open to negotiation, how should we then live?

## Genesis 18:16-33

From: [www.btstories.com](http://www.btstories.com)

Abraham had three guests. One of them was the Lord. He served them a meal under the shade of a tree. Afterwards they got up and started walking toward Sodom. Abraham walked with them for a short distance.

Suddenly the Lord stopped and said to the others, "I'm going to tell Abraham what I'm about to do. After all, he'll become a great and powerful nation. All the nations on earth will be blessed through him. I know he'll teach his children to honor God and do right."

Turning to Abraham, the Lord said, "The sin of Sodom and Gomorrah is great. I hear the cries of their victims constantly. I'm going to the city to see it for myself. If I find that it's true, I'll destroy them."

As Abraham and the Lord continued to talk, the other two men left them and walked toward Sodom. Abraham said, "Is it true that you would actually sweep away the righteous along with the wicked? Let's say there're fifty righteous people in the city. Would you actually destroy the place, knowing that you're killing those righteous people right along with the wicked? I don't believe you'd do that. The Judge of all the earth is always just."

The Lord said, "If I find fifty righteous people in Sodom, then for their sakes I won't destroy the city."

Abraham said, "I realize now that I shouldn't have been so fast to talk to you that way. I'm nothing but dust along the road. But let's say the city lacked just five people to make up the fifty you're looking for. Are you going to destroy the whole city just because they're missing five righteous people?"

The Lord said, "I won't destroy the city if I find forty-five righteous people there."

"Uh, Lord, could we make that forty righteous people?"

"I won't destroy the place if I find forty righteous people there."

"Lord, don't be angry with me for speaking up again. What would you do if you found only thirty righteous people there?"

"I won't destroy the place if I find thirty righteous people there."

"Lord, since I have already been so bold to talk to you about this, could we make that twenty righteous people?"

"I won't destroy the place if I find twenty righteous people there."

"Uh Lord, please don't be angry with me. I promise this is the last time I'll talk to you about this. What would you do if you found only ten righteous people there?"

"I won't destroy the place if I find ten righteous people there."

With that, the conversation was over. The Lord left, and Abraham returned to his tent.