

Sermon Discussion - 23 July 2023

Read Genesis 18:16-33

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

In the movie Patch Adams, the main character, after experiencing tragedy, questions God's compassion and fairness.

Have you ever gone through a difficult situation that led you to question God's character? How did you work through those doubts and maintain your faith?

Observation *Discovering the context*

In Genesis 17-18, God makes a covenant with Abraham and Sarah, promising them a son in their old age. From their perspective, it's been a long time waiting on God to act.

- How do you personally view God's fairness and justice? Do you ever struggle with doubts about His character or actions?
- How can prayer change us, even if it doesn't change God's plans? Have you experienced any transformative moments through persistent prayer in your own life?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. Do you agree with A.W. Tozer's statement that what comes to our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us? Why or why not? How does our perception of God impact our faith and relationship with Him?
2. The sermon mentions the equation... "*Arrogance + abundant food + careless ease = a lack of concern to help the poor/need.*"

How does this equation relate to our lives today? Can you identify any areas where complacency might be affecting your compassion towards others?

3. In the passage, Abraham intercedes for the people of Sodom, even though God already knows what He plans to do. What do you think is the purpose of prayer when God is all-knowing and sovereign? Why do you think God allowed Abraham to intercede for Sodom?
4. Discuss the concept of trusting in God's purposes and plans. How can we cultivate a deeper level of trust in God's goodness, even when we don't fully understand His ways?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- The sermon mentioned that prayer should not only focus on personal needs but also center on what God is doing in the world. How can we align our prayers with God's purposes and desires? Can you share specific prayer requests that reflect this focus?
- Try memorising Genesis 18:25...
“Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?