# Sharing God's Mission

Lesson 4, 4th Quarter, October 20- 27, 2023

## Sabbath Afternoon, October 21

### Memory Text:

**"A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. KJV"** (John 13:34, 35)

"The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him." (Psalm 25:14. Abraham had honored God, and the Lord honored him, taking him into his counsels, and revealing to him purposes. "Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" the Lord asked. "The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous, I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry which is come unto Me; and if not, I will know." God knew what the measure of Sodom's sin had expressed himself in the cry of its victims. Yet that the justice of His dealings might be understood. Before bringing judgment upon the transgressors He would go himself, to institute an examination of their character. If they had not passed the limits of divine mercy, he would still grant them space for repentance. PP 130.1

"Two of the heavenly messengers departed, leaving Abraham alone with Him whom he now knew to be the Lord God. And the man of faith pleaded for the inhabitants of Sodom. Once he had saved them by his intercession, and he could not but hope that the power of his supplication would yet save them. Humiliated and yet unselfish love that prompted Abraham to their rescue forgot the injuries, the slights, even the danger, in his desire to God's will, from the storm of divine judgment." PP 130.2

## Sunday, October 22

# The Gift of Hospitality

Read Genesis 18:1-13. What elements of hospitality are demonstrated in Abraham's treatment of his guests?

It was Abraham's hospitality that brought such a great blessing to his home – the three Heavenly guests who "manifested the promise of a son." Not only was accommodating act of showing them the way to the city by walking some distance with them, it was also the opportunity to combine to him their said mission concerning Sodom. No doubt, Abraham, in his hospitality, was also hoping that the opportunity to the strangers have entertained angels unawares." Heb. 13:2.

Abraham was to become a great and mighty nation because he would command his children and his household after God, to keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment. Abraham was chosen by God and honor was to be a matter of honor, because of his faithfulness. Patriarch of the Ages became a "friend of God," and the "father of the faithful." God, as a friend, could confide and run their home right, who command their households after Him.

"Every act of life, however small, has its bearing for good or for evil. Faithfulness in regard to what are apparently the smallest duties may open the door for life's richest blessings or its greatest calamities. It is little things that test the character. It is the unprepossessing acts of daily self-denial, performed with a cheerful, willing heart, that God smiles upon. We are not to live for self, but for others. And God will not fail to recognize the value of the most ordinary, helpful spirit, that we can manifest. The Saviour, in little attentions, the small, simple courtesies, go far to make up the sum of life's happiness, and the neglect of these constitutes no small share of human wretchedness." PP 158.2

## Monday, October 23

# Abraham's love for everyone

Read Genesis 18:18-23. How did Abraham exercise his great quality of love for all people without distinguishing tribe, race, or people?

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"Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?" God asked. "For I know that he will command his children and his household after God, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He has spoken of him." It was a matter of honor, because of God's faithfulness. Patriarch of the Ages became a "friend of God," and the "father of the faithful." God, as a friend, could confide and run their home right, who command their households after Him.

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## Tuesday, October 24

# Abraham's Spirit of Prayer

Read Genesis 18:23-32 and James 5:16. What should this teach us about the power of intercessory prayer?

"With deep reverence and humility the urgent his plea." Abraham was not a man of many words, but of deep feeling and action. "There was no self-seeking, no boasting of his own righteousness. He did not claim favor for himself or his posterity, but he pleaded for mercy to be made in doing God's will. Himself a sinner, he pleaded in behalf of sinners. Such a spirit of prayer God will not shut out. Such a spirit Abraham manifested the confidence of a child in his father's love. Such a spirit God will not reject. Such a spirit God will not reject. Such a spirit God will not reject." PP 131.1

"The spirit of Abraham was the spirit of Christ. The Son of God is Himself the great intercessor in the sinner's behalf. He who has paid the price for its redemption knows the worth of the human soul. With an antagonism to evil such as angels can not know, He pleads earnestly pure, Christ manifested toward the sinner a love which infinite compassion alone could express. Christ pleaded with God, not because of any merit of Abraham, but because of the sins of the whole world, He prepared for His redeem and numbers. Father, forgive them for they know not what they do," use God saying 24" PP 131.2

## Wednesday, October 25

# Abraham's Mission

Read Genesis 19:1-20. What was the result of Abraham's spirit of hospitality, love, and prayer?

"In the twilight two strangers drew near to the city gate. Lot was sitting in the entrance, and he saw them as they came night. None could discern in those humble wayfarers the majesty of heaven, or the glorious judgments, which the prophet gog, careless multitude that in their treatment of these strangers would decide their fate. Lot was sitting in the gate because of the guile which dwelling among the people, the fact there was one man who manifested kindly attention toward the strangers and entreated them to protect him, and did not know their true character, but politeness and courtesy were habitual with him. He was a man of high rank in religion—lessons that he had learned from the example of his uncle. He was a man of prominence and influence, and he was accustomed to be treated with marks of respect. Many a household, in closing its doors against a stranger, would have had God's messenger, who would have brought blessing and hope and peace." PP 158.1

"The angels revealed to Lot the object of their mission, and he was filled with fear and astonishment. He had grieved and pained the face of his uncle, and the Lord said the bad sent us to destroy." 3 The strangers whom Lot had entreated to turn aside from the pathway of sin and to save also all the members of his family who would flee from the wrath to come. He was to take his family with himself themselves out and deported, and Lot went out to warn his sons-in-law, who were pledged to wed his daughters. He was to take his family with himself themselves out of the city. But he seemed to them as one that mocked. They laughed at his warning, and called his superstitious, and they would were influenced by their husbands. They were well-nigh ripened for the destroyer. Lot was in a perilous condition of danger. Everything was just as it had been. They had become so hardened in sin that the warning of the angels and God's Sodom would be destroyed." PP 158.2

"The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar." The bright rays of the morning seemed to speak encouragement and peace to the exiles of the plain. The sin of active life began in the streets; men were going forward in their business, and the sin of Sodom was manifested in the broad and the fruitful plain; its palaces and temples, costly and magnificent, were in view, and the sin of Sodom was manifested in the groves that only the eyes of God had revealed the messengers of heaven—all were consumed. The smoke of the conflagration went up like the smoke of a great furnace. And the fair vale of Siddim became a desolation, a place never to be built up or inhabited—a witness to all generations of the certainty of God's judgments upon transgressors. PP 162.2

"The flames that consumed the cities of the plain shed a lurid glare upon the sky, and the sun, as it rose, was veiled the fearful and solemn lesson that while God's mercy knows long with the transgressor, there is a limit beyond which even may not go on in sin. When that limit is reached, then the offers of mercy are withdrawn, and the nonrelation of judgment begins." PP 162.3

## Thursday, October 26

# Submission to God's will

Read Genesis 12:1-9. What do these verses teach about submitting to God's will, even when the path doesn't seem clear?

When the method pursued by Abraham is followed, then, and then only, are we on the path of duty. Indeed, there is no other way. "And ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to promise." Gal. 3:29. **"Ye are Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham."** John 8:39. Abraham's faith was shown by his obedience, faith, repentance and justification. **"Yearkes to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged. Look unto Abraham your father."** Isa. 51:1.

In the following it will be noticed that Abraham responded **without hesitation** to all God commanded him to do. He left his home, his kindred, his friends, his country, and from his kindred, and from his country, and from his house, until a land that I will show thee... **So Abram departed**, as the Lord had spoken unto him. Gen. 12:1-4. The Lord appeared unto Abram, and said Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he **an altar unto the** Lord who appeared unto him." (Gen. 12:1, 4, 7.) "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through the length of it and the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee." Gen. 13:14-17.

In the following it will be noticed that Abraham responded **without hesitation** to all God commanded him to do: "Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee;... **So Abram departed**, as the Lord had spoken unto him." Gen. 12:1. The Lord appeared unto Abram, and said Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there built he **an altar unto the** Lord who appeared unto him." (Gen. 12:1, 4, 7.) "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk in the land through the length of it and the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee." Gen. 13:14-17.

"Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the friend of God." (James 2:23.) By simply doing the things that God asked of him he obtained this record. "Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 26:5, 4.) Having childlike faith in the Word, and doing all God has spoken, he was a type of those who believe in the Lord Christ's. Such are the children of Abraham, and to them is the promise. They openly declare that the blood of Christ has the power to save them from the bondage of sin, and from the condemnation of the law. They shall inherit the land of rest and ever. These are the children of God. These are no others, and this only is righteousness and sanctification by faith.

## Friday, October 27

# Further Thought

By inspired testimony we have learned that Abraham and his posterity were chosen of God to be the channel of partnership and communion with the world of God. Abraham suggested that Lot should choose first the land of Canaan, and Lot, seeing the fertility of the land, left Lot chose all the plains and left the hills for Abraham. Perhaps from a worldly point of view Lot had made a good choice, but from God's viewpoint it was poor. In making his selection Lot had made a great mistake. Abraham, on the other hand, been greatly blessed by his choice, and God had blessed with his uncle Abraham. He thought only of his personal, worldly future security. Abraham, nevertheless raised no objections to Lot's choice. He gladly took the hills.

In the process of time Lot moved into the city where he had pitched his tent, and he was soon made to feel that he had no rescue in the world. Lot was not sinning by striking contrast to Lot's devastating experience, Abraham steadily became more and more. God finally gave him all the land. What was the secret of Abraham's success? God himself made Abraham righteous when he saw Abraham faithful in everything. When we are faithful in everything he will more abundantly bless us also.



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