



Abraham – Friend of God

Genesis 18:16-32 | Ryan Pfeiffer | August 10, 2025

Last week we looked at the power of faith to unite us in friendship with God!

James 2:23 “Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.” He was even called the friend of God.

(Q) Can you think of a good friend in your life right now? What is it that makes someone a friend?

Someone we trust...

Someone we share our thoughts/ heart with...

Someone we share our life with... we go out to dinner... we play pickleball...

Someone we don't hide important things from... **vs17** Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?... the earth will be blessed through him... I have chosen him...

God wants Abraham to better understand the reality of evil in the world and how He is dealing with it.

FOCUS: Today's Passage shows us how God deals with evil in wrath & mercy.

FIRST: GOD'S WRATH. 20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous 21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know. 22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

God sees the evil in our world & lives... **vs21** “the outcry has reached me”

God SEES the cancer, the injustice (Story)... and He HEARS our cries!! Hagar!

SECOND. God hates the evil... “so grievous” ... **Isaiah 61:8** For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong.

The biblical word for God's hatred of evil is WRATH... John Stott— “his steady, unrelenting, unremitting, uncompromising antagonism to evil in all its forms and manifestations.”

God's wrath is not in-spite of his love... it is because of his love... when you love someone... you hate whatever threatens their good!

Like a mother hating the cancer eating her child... hating the alcoholism consuming a friend... hating the injustice ravaging vulnerable.

Not a fly off the handle, lose his temper, reactionary anger... **v21** “I will go down and see...”

God's wrath is even-keeled, patient, long-suffering ...

THIRD. God seeks to destroy evil. We'll see it in action next week.

The point is if we don't agree with God's truth on what's evil and good... then we will be destroyed because of the evil we've held onto.

CS Lewis— “Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others... but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it. But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no you left to criticize the mood or even enjoy it, but just the grumble itself, going on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God “sending us” to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE HELL unless it is nipped in the bud.”

It’s this “nipping in the bud” that takes us to God’s mercy.

GOD’S MERCY! 18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him. 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the Lord will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.

How do you see God’s mercy here?

1. God is working to BLESS ALL NATIONS ON EARTH... not just a select few!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The church exists to show the world... “God’s blessing is for you too!”

People of all backgrounds... struggles... ages... abilities...

This is why Christianity is the most culturally and ethnically diverse religion in the world... with over 60% of Christians in regions like Sub-saharan Africa, Latin-America, Asia...

By 2060 its estimated that 40% of worlds Christians in sub-saharan Africa

2. The way God is blessing the world is THROUGH his people.

For Abraham it begins with his own children... household...

Here with Sodom and Gomorrah... he’s learning to care for his neighbors

Romans 10:18 Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

3. FINALLY GOD sent his Son Jesus Christ...

The idea that the world could be blessed through one man was preparing the world for Jesus.

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.

Have you ever looked closely into his life? John Series this Fall