

Study Guide for September 6th, 2009. Life of Abraham: True Prayer: Genesis 18:16-33

Introduction: Identify a lesson you've learned about God through experiences of prayer.

I. The Disclosure: (Gen. 18:16-19)

- A. What happens when the men prepare to leave? What does Abraham do?
- B. What does the Lord consider? (See Jer. 23:16-24, Amos 3:7, Jn. 15:15)
- C. What is God's destiny for Abraham? What part will play Abraham to realize it?
- D. What place is the home to play in the task of spiritual instruction? (See vs. 19)
- E. What has been most beneficial in helping you learn **the way of the Lord**?

II. The Declaration (Gen. 18:20-21)

- A. What report has reached God's ears from Sodom and Gomorrah? (See Gen. 4:10)
- B. Why do you think the text mentions God's investigation? (See Gen. 4:9-12 & 11:5)
- C. What reaction should the report of **grievous sin** stir within us? (Gen. 13:13 & 19:13)

III. The Deliberation: (Gen. 18:22-33)

- A. Abraham standing before the Lord: (vs. 22)
 - 1) What does this picture reveal about the relationship between God and Abraham?
 - 2) Consider the following reports of men standing before God. What can we learn?
Moses: (Ex. 3:4-6) Isaiah: (Is. 21:8-10) Habakkuk: (Hab.2:1)
- B. Abraham questioning the Lord: (vs. 23-25)
 - 1) How many questions does Abraham address to God? What are they?
 - 2) What seems to be driving concern in these questions? How is God addressed?
 - 3) What has helped you hold together the justice and the mercy of God?
- C. Abraham bargaining with the Lord: (vs. 26-32)
 - 1) Describe the tone of Abraham as he addresses God?
 - 2) What is Abraham discovering about the character of God?
 - 3) Why do you think Abraham stops asking after God says ok to only 10 righteous?
- D. Abraham departing from the Lord: (vs. 33)
 - 1) Who concludes the dialogue?
 - 2) How was Abraham's prayer answered?
 - 3) "We cannot expect too little from men, nor too much from God." Comment.