

Read Genesis 18:22- 33

23 Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?”

24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

26 The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

27 Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,

28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?” “If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”

29 Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.”

30 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?” He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

31 Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?” He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.”

32 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?” He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Abraham knew God was going to pass judgment on Sodom because they were doing such terrible things. What did Abraham ask God (v. 23)? If you destroy Sodom, a lot of godly people will die. Is it fair that they should be destroyed also?

What did Abraham ask God next (v. 24)? If there are 50 people in the city who love God will you put everyone to death?

What did the Lord say (v. 26)? If there are 50 people in the city who love God, I won’t destroy the whole city.

How would you describe the conversations between God and Abraham (vv. 26-32)? (Read) They were bargaining over how many godly people it would take to save the city. God was very patient with Abraham. Abraham’s heart was right and he was very bold and persistent (but respectful) with God.

What did everyone do when the conversation was over (v. 33)? God left and Abraham went home. Note that Abraham quit asking before God quit giving.