

Pleading for Mercy

Genesis 18:16-33

Slides from John Percival's sermon at the morning service
Sunday 4th August 2024

Intercessory prayer = praying for other people

1. The roots of intercessory prayer (v16-19)

John 15v15

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

2. The basis of intercessory prayer (v20-25)

Genesis 18v20-21

²⁰ “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.”

Genesis 13v13

Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the LORD.

Genesis 18v24

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?

Genesis 18v24

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?

Genesis 18v25

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?”

3. The persistence of intercessory prayer (v26-33)

Two encouragements to pray:

- God uses our prayers as part of his plans
- God changes us

Luke 17v28-30

²⁸ It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.

²⁹ But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulphur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. ³⁰ It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

1 Peter 4v7

The end of all things is near. Therefore, be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.