

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Promise of
Judgment

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 18:1-19:38

Theme: Take refuge in the Judge of all the earth.

Introduction: The message of apparent non-judgmentalism is one of our society's primary messages. "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matt 7:1) has become the new cultural mantra. They want to have Jesus, but only if he comes on their terms. But Scripture does not present us with that option. The Lord is holy and good, and he judges evil. We cannot and will not appreciate the magnitude of his mercy and grace if we do not affirm the greatness of his holy justice.

Genesis 18-19 offer us 4 views of the Lord's justice and mercy and our response:

1. Agents of promise (18:1-15)

The Lord and 2 angels appear to Abraham and Sarah. They bring an announcement of the impending birth of Isaac.

Sarah disbelieves, and laughs. The Lord corrects her, asking, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (18:14).

Though Sarah falters, the Lord will still deliver and his purposes will be fulfilled.

2. Agents of intercession (18:16-37)

As the Lord prepares to judge Sodom, he brings Abraham in on his plans. Abraham has deep communion with the Lord.

Abraham intercedes for Sodom, and the Lord reveals that he would spare all 5 cities of the valley if only 10 righteous persons are found. He is merciful.

Part of Abraham's appeal is in the rhetorical question: "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" (18:25). Of course, he always has and always will do so.

3. Agents of judgment (19:1-25)

The 2 angels go down to Sodom and there meet Lot. He welcomes them, as Abraham did, and brings them into his home.

The men of the city surround his home and demand to violate his guests. Lot resists, but also reveals his compromised morality by exposing his daughters to danger.

The angels mercifully send Lot's family out of the city and the Lord rains down judgment on the valley. Everyone and everything is destroyed.

4. Agents of compromise (19:26-38)

Lot's wife compromises and is immediately punished. Lot continues to walk in fear and flees a cave. His daughters compromise and commit incest in order to conceive. Faithfulness to the Lord will require us to face scorn for his sake and for his glory. As we take refuge in him we will gladly bear those costs.

Questions:

1. Do you fear the Lord? How does his justice and wrath affect your understanding and experience of his grace and goodness?

2. How is faithfulness to the Lord bringing you into conflict with the world?

3. How are you growing in knowing the Lord through his word, so that you can obey him?