

Hospitality

In this day of convenient motels and hotels, we rarely think about what it means to entertain strangers (Heb. 13:1–2); but hospitality is an important part of Christian ministry (Rom. 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9). In fact, “given to hospitality” is one of the requirements for leadership in the local church (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8). By lovingly serving others, we serve Jesus Christ our Lord (Matt. 25:34–40), and we promote the spread of God’s truth (3 John 5–8).

Warren W. Wiersbe, [*Be Obedient*](#), “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 76.

18:2 three men were standing This indicates that these figures were embodied. Verse 1 indicates that one of the men is Yahweh (compare v. 13). This is confirmed in several verses (vv. 10, 13, 17–22) in which the divine name appears with respect to one of the figures (see v. 22). The other two leave for Sodom (v. 22) and are identified as angels in 19:1.

John D. Barry et al., [*Faithlife Study Bible*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 18:2.

while they ate All three figures eat—again showing that they are embodied. God and angels are not inherently embodied beings (Isa 31:3; John 4:24; Heb 1:14), but they are described performing physical acts that require embodiment (Gen 19:10; 32:24; compare 32:30; Hos 12:3–4).

John D. Barry et al., [*Faithlife Study Bible*](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 18:8.

Point- Abraham makes time for God

In that culture women were not present with accompanying male visitors. The fact that they knew her name on which to address her—for in that culture strangers did not address another’s wife—revealed conclusively, these men were not ordinary travellers.

Point- Abraham allows God to speak into his life, about his plans to bless and his plans to Judge

An intercessor must know the Lord personally and be obedient to His will. He must be close enough to the Lord to learn His “secrets” and know what to pray about (Amos 3:7; Ps. 25:14). The Lord’s words “I

know him” (Gen. 18:19) mean “I have chosen him, and he is My intimate friend” (John 15:15). Abraham knew more about Sodom’s future than the citizens themselves, including Lot. It is the separated believer who shares God’s secrets.

Warren W. Wiersbe, [Be Obedient](#), “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 78.

Abraham had just put his wife in a position of extreme compromise (and was about to do it again in ch. 20). He had begotten an illegitimate child by his wife’s servant girl. And he had treated that servant girl quite poorly afterward. In a very real sense, Abraham was just as guilty as Sodom. Yet Abraham the sinner had been forgiven by God again and again! How would he respond to the news of the impending destruction of his neighbors?

Kurt Strassner, [Opening up Genesis](#), Opening Up Commentary (Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009), 82.

God's disposition in this account indicates the judgement is never light or quick, that it only occurs after careful deliberation , and after being convinced of the character of the people or place to be judged

"Practising hospitality to God – making room for him in our lives – can be measured to some meaningful degree by our willingness to make room for the foreigner, the outsider."- Mike Frost

Intercession

Point- Abraham knows the God of Justice and mercy.

Interestingly God had a double motivation for revealing His plan: (1) **All nations would be blessed through** Abraham; therefore God told him that one city (Sodom) was to be removed before it had a chance to be blessed through him.

(2) Abraham was to teach his offspring righteousness and justice (**what is right and just**, v. 19) **so that** they might enjoy God’s blessings.

Thus the theme of justice predominates: those who will enjoy God’s blessing

(a) will teach justice (18:19);
(b) may intercede for just judgment to preserve the righteous; and
(c) know that God may preserve the wicked for the sake of the righteous.

Abraham recognise that God was not only the God , whom he had followed from Ur into Canaan, that he was still the judge of all the years.

Without the story Abraham would be a man of faith, but not a man of compassion and moral outrage, a model consistent with Moses and the prophets of Israel.

God longs for those who will risk that understanding with him by pleading for those who are hurting, displaced, or under threat of punishment. **To be effectual, such prayer must flow out of genuine concern and pure motives.**

Abraham drew near to the Lord (James 4:8), and the Hebrew word means “to come to court to argue a case.” Abraham was burdened for Lot and Lot’s family, as well as for the lost sinners in the five cities of the plain; and he had to share that burden with the Lord.

Abraham’s prayer was based not on the mercy of God but on the justice of God. “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” (Gen. 18:25; see Deut. 32:4) A just and holy God could not destroy righteous believers with wicked unbelievers; and Lot was a believer (2 Peter 2:6–9), even though his actions and words seemed to belie the fact.

Warren W. Wiersbe, [Be Obedient](#), “Be” Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 78.

righteousness The Hebrew word used here, *tsedaqah*, refers to what is right or fair (Lev 19:36). It can convey the legal sense of innocence or vindication (Job 6:29; see Psa 4:1 and note).

justice The Hebrew word used here, *mishpat*, can refer to legal decisions that involve both condemning the guilty and acquitting the innocent (1 Kgs 8:32; see Psa 146:7 and note).

John D. Barry et al., [Faithlife Study Bible](#) (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Ge 18:19.

Despite its prevalence, there is no singular definition of justice in the Old Testament or New Testament. However, the Bible's constant focus on justice provides a wealth of material with which to survey its various meanings.

Unlike the gods of other ancient Near Eastern cultures of the time, the God of the Old Testament exhibits deep concern for human beings and the issues they face. This God is a personal being, interested in justice, and often referred to as "just" and "righteous" in the Old Testament. God's concern for humanity and justice manifests itself in several ways.

Sally Holt, "[Justice](#)," in *Faithlife Study Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016).

Point-Righteous, people's who's heart are turned towards the things of God.

The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were exceedingly wicked (Gen. 13:13) because the men of these cities were given over to sexual practices that were contrary to nature (Gen. 19:5; Jude 7; Rom. 1:27). The words "sodomy" and "sodomize" are synonyms for these homosexual practices. The men did not try to hide their sin (Isa. 3:9). Nor would they repent (Jer. 23:14). The sudden destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is used in Scripture as an example of God's righteous judgment on sinners (Isa. 1:9; 3:9; Lam. 4:6; Zeph. 2:9; 2 Peter 2:6ff), and Jesus used it as a warning for people in the end times (Luke 17:28–32).

Warren W. Wiersbe, [Be Obedient](#), "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 78.

Abraham did not want to see all those people die and be lost forever. God is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9), and He "will have all men to be saved" (1 Tim. 2:4). "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezek. 33:11). The issue is not what kind of sins people commit, though some sins are certainly worse than others, but that "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and beyond that death is an eternal hell. Intercessors must have compassionate hearts and a deep concern for the salvation of the lost, no matter what their sins may be. (See 9:1–3; 10:1.)

Warren W. Wiersbe, [Be Obedient](#), "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 79.

Community

10 People to change the world- What a community of faith can achieve.

Practical Application

Community, which intercedes and shows hospitality, based on the character of Jesus.

We should know the remarkable influence which even a tiny minority may have for good.

That no one think that their ministry is useless, regardless how small a number they may be able to reach for the Lord.

We can change the world.

Acting together, making a difference

Interceding for those around. God listens

Showing hospitality to him and thus others. Showing hospitality to other and thus God.

Based on our understand of who Jesus is in our lives.