

# When The Lord Comes Calling

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## Genesis 18:1-10; 16-33

### I. Observations about the event

- The Lord's visit was not specifically about any of Abraham's personal business (the Lord had already told Abraham that he was going to give him a son of promise (Gen. 17), and this repeating of the promise in v. 10 was not the primary business of this visit - moreover, v. 17 reveals what His coming to this area was all about).
  - ▶ object lesson: we ought not to interpret every movement of the Lord in our hearts or minds to be about something that expressly has to do with us or our personal lives
- Many times, His coming to us by way of impressing our minds with a message, a directive, a reminder is about somebody else.
  - ▶ Illustrate with the story about Roy Scarborough wrecking in front of your house in Pottertown; the Lord speaking suddenly to your heart with a message to go witness to him; then him dying two weeks later.
- It was the **wrong** time of the day (as it related to human behavior)
  - ▶ (heat of the day...time when resting in the shade is better than getting up and overheating by doing something)
  - ▶ The Lord does not necessarily cater to the convenience or even the comfort of our flesh when He comes calling on us
    - When Christ appeared suddenly to His disciples on the shores of lake Genessaret to show them something about his power, the answer Peter gave Him when He told them to cast their net on the other side of the ship was "...we have toiled all night and have taken nothing...." (**Luke 5:5**)
- It was the **right** time of the day as related to spiritual sensitivity (Abraham was resting...when people rest and are not absorbed with their own business or other pursuits, their minds are often more receptive to the Lord's communications)
- Preoccupation often drives away spiritual awareness and productivity
  - ▶ **Mark 4:19** And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
  - ▶ **Luke 21:34** And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.
  - ▶ **Ecc. 9:17** The words of wise *men are* heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.
- Notice Abraham's **intensity** about his service to the Lord (vv. 2-8)
  - ▶ The great need today among the Lord's people is for us to have a keen interest in the business of the Lord, and an intensity about focusing on the Lord's active presence in our lives
    - Abraham was attentive to details of their comfort ("Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:" v.4)
    - Abraham was speedy to engage the Lord when he recognized that He had come

calling (“he ran to meet them from the tent door....”)

- He was speedy in rendering proper respect to the Lord (“...bowed himself toward the ground.”)
- He was intense about keeping the Lord there (“...if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:”)
- He was speedy to sacrifice his own possessions in the interest of pleasing his Lord (Abraham **hastened** into the tent unto Sarah, and said, **Make ready quickly** three measures of fine meal, knead *it*, and make cakes upon the hearth. And Abraham **ran unto the herd**, and fetched a calf tender and good, and gave *it* unto a young man; and **he hastened to dress it.**”)
- He was quick to involve his household in the business of serving the Lord

## II. Note the outcome of this visit as far as Abraham was concerned

- He learned of something that was vital to his interests
  - ▶ Apparently, the sinners of Sodom were of interest to Abraham (otherwise he would have pleaded with God until he got a promise to spare the cities if even one man [Lot] was found; or he would have negotiated with the Lord to get the righteous out of the cities before He destroyed them)
  - ▶ He got an opportunity to plead for those sinners (he negotiated for the preservation of the cities based on the supposition that 10 righteous men would be there).
    - We sometime are so sick of sinners acting ungodly that we wish God would just strike them down where they stand. We feel that way because of the fact that they seem to just continue on without any intervention from God to stop them from their destructive ways.
    - What we sometimes forget when we wish for God to do something drastic is that there may be righteous souls terribly affected by such intervention.
      - ✓ It is almost certain that the tsunami which struck Japan and killed thousands put an end to the ungodly practices of a certain number of perverse and even violent people...but how many perfectly peaceable, law abiding citizens were taken also in that catastrophe? How many born again believers’ or their loved ones who were sinners were drowned or had their properties destroyed?
- Abraham learned something about the mercy and forbearance of God (6 separate negotiations with the Lord about not destroying the cities; each decrease in number of righteous people he negotiated for stood as an indicator of the Lord’s willingness to extend mercy; and of His forbearance of sin)
- Learn from Abrahams bold negotiations that the Lord may withhold severe judgment upon a place based solely on the fact that He is taking consideration for His people. (The discovery of 10 righteous people in the cities would have spared them)
- Abraham learned something about the extent of the wickedness of the culture of the cities of the plain (Sodom, Gomorrha, etc.). The Lord destroyed the cities, because not even ten men found righteous in all of them (**Chapter 19**).