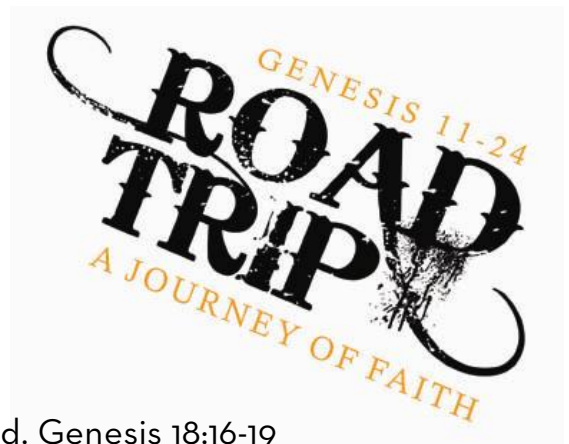




Rescue On Our Journey of Faith Genesis 18:16-19:29



I. Rescue of others begins with a call _____ from God. Genesis 18:16-19
Colossians 1:12-14

We are blessed to be a blessing to others. Genesis 18:18; Ephesians 1:3, 4

We are chosen to pass on God's righteousness and justice. Genesis 18:19
Matthew 24:45-51; 25:44-46; John 3:16-19, 36

II. Rescue is needed because of people's grave sinful _____ condition. Genesis 18:20, 21
"And the Lord said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave."

Outcry = _____ Sin = _____

The sin of those who do **not** follow Christ. Genesis 19:4-7

The sin of those who **do follow** Christ. Genesis 19:8, 9; II Peter 2:6

III. Rescue begins with those who prayerfully _____ appeal for God's grace. Genesis 18:21-33

- Pray because God will examine our spiritual life. vs. 21
- Pray because God will patiently consider our request. vs. 23-33
- Pray for the sake of other righteous people to be spared. vs. 23
- Pray based on God's character of grace and fair play. vs. 24, 25
- Pray with an attitude of brokenness and humility. vs. 27
- Pray persistently for their salvation.

IV. Rescue will be hard because so many will not admit _____ their sinful condition.
Genesis 19:8-26

- People do not take God's justice seriously. Genesis 19:14
- People "hesitate" to change because they are calloused to the sinful conditions around them.
Genesis 19:8, 15, 16; II Peter 2:6-10
- People bargain with God to keep control of their own lives. Genesis 19:17-19
- People long to return to the former life of sin. Genesis 19:26

V. Rescue is extremely important because God's justice will occur. Genesis 19:27-29
Revelation 20:11-15

Who do you know that needs to be rescued from sin? Prayerfully intercede for them now.

What sin in your own life do you need to confess and be "rescued" from by God's forgiveness?

Digging Deeper

Everybody loves a good rescue story. A dog falls into the flood basin and the TV eyes could not leave that dog's rescue until he was safely on shore. Our hearts go out to animals and people as they are pulled from water of a flood or the rubble of an earthquake in Haiti. Now, if only we could see the many people spiritually lost around us and have that same passion to rescue them from their sins. That is a major theme of Genesis 18 and 19 in Sodom.

Read **Colossians 1:12-14**. Who has qualified us for heaven? How? Who do you know that needs to be "rescued?" What are you doing to help in that rescue effort?

If people are not rescued, a major judgment will come to them. Read **Matthew 24:45-51** and **Matthew 25:44-46**. These are the clear words of Jesus. What does He warn us about regarding the future judgment? Are you ready? Who do you know that is not ready?

Read **John 3:16-21**. What does this passage teach you about the purpose of Christ? Why will some people not believe in Jesus? Why do they resent or even hate Him? Note how hard it can be to "rescue" some people from their sin.

Sin in **Genesis 18** means to "miss the mark or lose your way." It is used in **Judges 20:16** of left handed slingers of Benjamin who throw a rock and not "miss their target." It is used in **Proverbs 19:2** where a man is in a hurry and "loses his way." What is our target that cannot be missed? Read I John 3:4 where sin is defined as "lawlessness" or keeping God's commands. Read Romans 3:23 where sin is defined as being as holy as God is. How well are you hitting those two targets of God's commands and God's character in your life?

Read II **Peter 2:6-10**. Note that Lot was a righteous man but he needed to be rescued. It says he was "oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men." "Oppressed" means to tire down with toil, to exhaust with labor." It seems Lot was just worn out by the sinful conditions of Sodom. He was "tormented" by it. Do you ever feel that way about the sinful conditions of our times? What does God promise to you so you are rescued from it in this passage?

God was so gracious and patient to hear Abraham's intercessory prayers for Lot and the people of Sodom. Pray for those you know who need to be rescued. God loves all sinners and is not willing that any should perish. II **Peter 3:9**.

Note also how even ten righteous people would cause God to spare the city. Obviously there were not ten righteous people, but recognize that those of us who are righteous in Christ hold back God's judgment. You see this in II **Thessalonians 2:6, 7**. The church is that force that "restrains" sin. How is your righteous life restraining sin in our community?