

Story Time

Part 5 - Lot, His Wife, His Town Luke 17:29; Gen 18:16-33

Jesus is asked about the coming MILLENNIAL KINGDOM:
Messiah is THE world leader for 1,000 years

Qualities of MK: Top-down integrity; Global peace; World abundance

This ONLY happens because the Messiah reigns over the nations

Q = When, when, when?

A = Decline in Global human DECENCY

Comparisons: Noah and LOT

People of S&G were: Luke 17:28; Gen. 18:20-21

'*Eating and drinking*' = immediate GRATIFICATION

'*buying and selling*' = acquiring life's WEALTH

'*planting and building*' = LONG-TERM planning

'*sin is exceedingly grave*' = DEGREE & PERVASIVENESS

No regard for their CREATOR, but celebrated WICKEDNESS

ABRAHAM knew the truth about the city's moral condition:

God has a very low threshold for dispensing His MERCY but a

very high threshold for dispensing His JUDGEMENT

This is the MORAL condition of humanity just before He returns.

Until Jesus returns, let's work at being part of the 'RIGHTEOUS'

'DOING righteousness and justice' Genesis 18:19

'Loving GOD and our NEIGHBORS' Mark 12:30-31

'DISPLAYING mercy and compassion to the people of our world'

Matthew 5:16

Life Group Discussion Questions – July 2, 2023

Genesis 18:18-21 "... since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him, so that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him." And the LORD said, "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave. I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know."

DISCOVER

1. What is your definition of integrity? Where do you learn integrity? What organizations and companies do you think show integrity? As church attendance declines, where will children learn about integrity? How is integrity related to righteousness? Where and when have you heard teaching on righteousness outside of the church?
2. Who will lead the coming millennial kingdom? Why can't humans create such a kingdom here and now? How will Jesus make things right in the kingdom? What are some signs of the return of Jesus? Why should we look forward to the return of Christ and the coming kingdom? Why don't we have global peace now? What will it take for us to have global peace? When does the pursuit of peace take people away from God?
3. What will it mean to have world abundance in the coming kingdom? Does that mean everyone will be rich? Explain your perspective on being rich. What do we really need to live and thrive? Jesus thrived while on Earth. What about the life of Jesus is illuminating on what might be meant by abundance?

EXPLORE

1. Read Gen 18:16-33. What does it mean that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was an outcry to God? Why might such an outcry also be called a shriek or horror? How important is it for us to repent before crying out to God for justice in the midst of wickedness? Why are we good at seeing the bad in others? What did Jesus say about examining ourselves before criticizing others? How do we uphold righteous ways in the midst of exceedingly grave sin?
2. Read Luke 17:26-33. What will be some of the signs preceding the second coming of Jesus? What are some of the results of gluttony and drunkenness? What difference does it make if sin is done in private versus in public? How should Christians warn the world without the world tuning us out? Or should we even consider the reaction and just proclaim a day of reckoning?" Who can you name that was a Biblical truth-teller but didn't drive people away by being overly aggressive?

EXPERIENCE

1. What does it mean to do righteousness and justice in your house and neighborhood? Read Matthew 5:16 and share ways that you can be a reflection of God while doing good works. What good have you done for your neighborhood or observed being done by someone recently?
2. How should we look forward to the coming kingdom without neglecting others? What is the right balance for being heavenly focused while doing good on Earth?

PRAY

Pray... Our Father, please convict us when we participate in ways of the world that pull us away from your good and perfect plan for our life. Reveal to us how we can love your creation without loving the ways of the world. Open our eyes to good works that glorify you and point people to the good news of Jesus. Amen.
Action... Be a light to one of your neighbors by giving them a small gift with an encouraging Bible verse.