

# The Story of LOT: “The Danger of Worldliness and The Duty of Prayer” (Gen 19)

Alright, I want to start off with a little quiz:

Which Avenger series is the best?

- A. Wandavision
- B. Falcon and the WS
- C. Loki

You can vote by show of hands, and if you are extra passionate about your answer, do spirit fingers

Which team has brought the most honor to the Triangle?

- A. Duke
- B. UNC
- C. NCSU

Why do I feel like there were wildly different reactions at some of our campuses? For me, you know I can't vote... Some will try to read a subliminal message from my choice of footwear, but that is purely coincidental I assure you. I asked our team if they could make these shoes appear as different colors at different campuses: Carolina Blue on screen at CHC, but deep blue at our DDC and bright red at our BRC. They said Duke blue maybe but no chance of making these look bright red on camera.

You are on a road trip and have to stop for a meal. You choose...

- A. Wendy's
- B. Hardees
- C. Panera

The correct answer was D. Waffle House, though judges will give half-credit for (B), Hardees. The Frisco burger is a vastly underrated sandwich. The Nicolas Cage of burgers.

Who is the real Spiderman?

- A. Tobey Maguire
- B. Andrew Garfield
- C. Tom Holland

The correct answer is (A); he's the only real actor out of all of them.

Some of you are like, "I can't believe there wasn't a Nicolas Cage question on these." Good point, so here it is...

Who is the greatest actor of all time?

- A. Nicolas Cage
- B. Nic Cage
- C. Cage, Nicolas

**Well, those are the 5 questions** that I opened my message with at Student Camp. I share them because I'm going to preach a version of that same message to us as a church today, because I think it's a word for us as well. So, GENESIS 19 IF YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES...

- **To remind you, we had 71 students** make a first time decision for Christ this year at camp--and that's not just hands raised or prayers prayed, but a decision they took initiative with to talk to a leader about, and we've had several more since then. Some of our students on the football team at one of our local high schools got burdened for one of the guys on their team and started to pray for him and just a few days ago were able to lead him to Christ.

**So, Summit Church, God is doing something among our students,** and I think the passage we're going to look at has as much to say to us regarding our responsibility as a church to them as it does their response toward God. So I wanted us to spend some time there.

**Plus, this passage also addresses a focus myself and some of our leaders have really sensed the Holy Spirit calling us** to this Fall: PRAYER. Because we're starting to regather in person after lockdown, we said the Fall is going to be a little bit like a relaunch, and we have sensed that the Holy Spirit is calling us to lay prayer in at the foundation. Prayer has always been a building block at TSC, but we want to lay it in at the foundation this time--one of the distinguishing features of who we are.

- **And speaking of: Many of you know I have a new book out called *Just Ask***--I showed you a couple of weeks ago; it's a practical book I wrote for YOU on how to pray and how to overcome obstacles to prayer.
- **These are available now**--at your campuses. I want to remind you that nothing we ever sell here profits me or any other pastor; all the money from the sale of these items goes back into the ministries of the church. God did not call me here to make money off of you; no, I wanted to write this book first and foremost as a service to you, since I know that this is the one area that many Christians are unhappy with.

**At any rate, this passage touches on our responsibility as a church to pray**--for our students, for each other, for our community--and I believe it's what the Holy Spirit is saying to our church right now.

**So Gen 19.** This is the story of Abraham and his young nephew, Lot. The answer to the question of "Who was the smartest man in the Bible is 'Abraham' because knew A LOT. **Let me catch you up to the story as we come into chapter 19.**

**Abraham and his nephew Lot had been having problems.** The land they were trying to co-exist in was just too small, and their shepherds were fighting--there just wasn't enough space for them all to live comfortably. They were fighting over the best watering holes and pasture lands--kind of like when you and your sibling tried to share a room (how many did that--or are doing that?) Your little brother was always leaving his stuff on your side of the room; he was always in the bathroom when you needed it; he never flushed; he left his dirty socks on your side of the room. It was like tha, and it was clear Abraham and Lot needed some space.

- **So Abraham took Lot up high on a mountain overlook and said,** "Lot, God has promised to give our family all this land, so you go one direction, and I'll go the other." He let Lot choose.
- **Now, all the land was good,** but the land to the East was incredible--Genesis 13:10 says it looked like the Garden of Eden itself! The pastures were green and fertile; there were lots of places of water and shade; the problem was that it stretched out toward two cities notorious for their wickedness, Sodom and Gomorroah. Listen to how the writer of Genesis describes them: **"And the people of this area were extremely wicked and constantly sinned against the Lord"** (Gen 13:13 NLT). **But that was not as concerning to Lot;** he liked the vibe of the cities; there was just so much money and culture and activity he wanted to be a part of. **So Lot chose the land toward Sodom.**

And 12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom.

- It turned out to be a bad choice--in fact, shortly after he got there, raiders from Sodom came and stole all his stuff and took him and his family captive.
- Abraham then mounts a Kevin-Costner-style vigilante posse to go and rescue him, and **you might have thought after that that Lot would have learned his lesson**, but Lot just loved Sodom, so, he moved back there, pitching his tents even closer this time.

In fact, soon enough, Lot moved into the city itself, so that when chapter 19 opens, we find that **"...Lot was sitting in the gateway of the city."** Gen 19:1. "Sitting in the gateway" is an Old Testament way of saying he had become a leader, because that's where the leaders of the city sat. So as chapter 19 opens, Lot is not only living NEAR Sodom, he's a leader IN Sodom. He's popular there. And look at vs. 7, speaking to the men of Sodom, he says: **"I beg you, my brothers..."** (vs. 7). He calls the men of Sodom his "brothers." THEY are his people now. Sodom is where he feels most at home.

**You know, you have to wonder what compromises Lot made in order to be accepted in Sodom. Right?**

- To be fair, it seems that Lot never went along with the worst wickedness in Sodom--in fact, it seems like he **kept most of his major morals** intact. But it's also clear he made a **bunch of small compromises**, and if you read chapter 19 in more detail, you'll see some of them.
- Maybe **most tragically**, he kept his mouth completely shut about his identity as God's servant and his faith in God.

Chapter 18 opens telling us that Sodom and Gomorrah's wickedness had gotten so bad that God decided to destroy these cities with fire. BUT, as a favor to Abraham, God sent a couple of angels to warn him before he did it. As the angels are telling Abraham about the coming judgment, Abraham immediately thinks about Lot. He doesn't want to see Lot destroyed, which triggers this conversation: 18:23 Abraham stepped forward and said, "Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? 25 You could not possibly do such a thing: to kill the righteous with the wicked... Won't the Judge of the whole earth do what is just?" (18:23-25)

And God says, "Yes, Abraham, if you could find 50 righteous, I would spare the whole city." Abraham thinks about it for a second and then says, **"Suppose the fifty righteous lack five. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?"** (Gen 18:28). Now, Abraham seems to be a pretty shrewd negotiator, fwiw. *"God, surely we're not going to lose this deal over 5 people, right?"* So God says, "OK, Abraham, if you can find 45, I would spare the city." Abraham says, "How about 30? And God says, "I'll spare it for the sake of 30!" Vs. 31, **"How about 20?"** Abraham starting to sound like an auctioneer! And God says, "Yes for 20." Vs. 32: "How about 10?" **And God answered, "I will not destroy it on account of ten."** (18:32)

**But Abraham could not find even 10 righteous. You've got Lot and his wife and 2 daughters; that's 4; but they don't seem to have persuaded anyone else to turn from their wickedness.** So the negotiation ends.

**NEVERTHELESS, in response to Abraham's prayer for LOT, God sends angels to warn HIM.** That whole negotiation had been about preserving Lot. So, in 19:15, the angels showed up in Lot's house in Sodom and said, **"Hurry! Take your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away when the city is punished."** (19:15) Yet even then, after hearing about coming judgment, **vs. 16 says, "...he hesitated..."**

(19:16). Even when he's heard that everyone is about to be destroyed by fire from heaven, he's so in love with the world that he can't leave it. These are his people!; his brothers.

Finally, vs. 16 one of "the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, because the Lord was merciful" (Gen 19:16). Lot literally had to be dragged from the city, this is how much he loves it.

**And as they are leaving**, the angels warn Lot and his family not to look back on the city as God rains down fire upon it. **But Lot's wife's was just so enraptured with the city, so in love with it**, that she couldn't keep her eyes off it, and when she turned to look back, **vs. 26, God turned her immediately into a pillar of salt.**

- **Salt here serves as a symbol**--Salt dries things out, right? What happens when you eat too much salt? It makes you thirsty. Turning Lot's wife into a pillar of salt is a symbol of what has happened to her and Lot spiritually. They may still technically be believers, but they are so dried out spiritually they have no life or joy left in them.

And so, in the end, Lot is saved, by the skin of his teeth, but he loses everything, including his wife.

**And what does this have to do with us?**

## 4 Life-Saving Lessons to Learn from Lot

### 1. There is a PROGRESSION of sin in your life

- **Most Christians don't intend to become Sodom and Gomorrah.** Lot didn't. He never intended to make it his home, and he certainly didn't intend to be included in its judgment. **But many Christians, like Lot, are so attracted to the world** that they make their home as close to it as possible; and if they are honest, they end up identifying as much with the world as they do with the people of God.
- So, be honest--Whom do you think of most instinctively as "my brothers?" Who do you feel the closest kinship with? It's an easy question to answer: Who do you hang out with most easily? Who do spend most of your time with?
- **The lesson from Lot's life is that you have to make up your mind from the beginning:** Who do you really want to be? Where do you want to belong? If it's with the world, go there 100%. If it's with God, go with him 100%.
- **I've said many times:** The most miserable person in the world is the half-committed Christian, who is just enough in the world to be miserable in God; and just enough into God that they are miserable in the world. Your heart is filled with salt, and not in a good way: you feel dry and lifeless everywhere. **Charles Spurgeon used to say**, "If you're going to be saved, be saved 100%." The worst thing to do is to try to straddle two opinions. You can't keep trying to walk along with your feet in both worlds. It's like when you're standing on a dock with one foot on the dock and one foot in the boat and the boat starts to drift away? There's this split second where you have to make up your mind...
- Or, to quote the old Chinese proverb says, "Him who try to walk down both sides of road will split his pants."

**1 John 2:15** makes it clear, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world; for if any person love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

- **IOW, it's not just about your behavior, it's about your heart. Don't just evaluate your behavior,** congratulating yourself that you're not doing all the bad things other Sodom people do. The question is: **What do you love?** Where are you pitching your tents, metaphorically speaking, and what does that say about what your heart really desires?
- **Are you trying to get as close to the world as you can without becoming it?**
- Just as with Lot, there is **A PROGRESSION OF SIN in your life that starts with loving the world and ends up with destruction of your life.** And you likely never see it coming.
- **Be honest with yourself: Has this happened to you?** High school and middle school students: at first, you were alarmed at the things unsaved friends said, and it made you feel uncomfortable. Or it made you feel dirty, seeing sin depicted in movies or music. But **eventually you got ok** with it. Then you started hanging out with people doing those things; then you started to do those things.
- Or, **at first, you were concerned with your friends who didn't know Jesus.** You prayed for them. But eventually, it just got weird trying to tell them that they needed to be saved, and so you stopped bringing it up, and now you don't even pray for them. Instead of being someone who warns them about coming judgment on Sodom and calls them to escape it, you've made your home there with THEM, and your life is virtually indistinguishable from theirs now. They never feel the slightest bit of discomfort around you because you never warn them about it. And one day, you look up, and you've never really told them about Jesus or explained to them in any meaningful way that they need to be saved.
- **Years ago, I read the disturbing account of how they kill WOLVES out on the tundras of Siberia...** That's how Satan destroys you

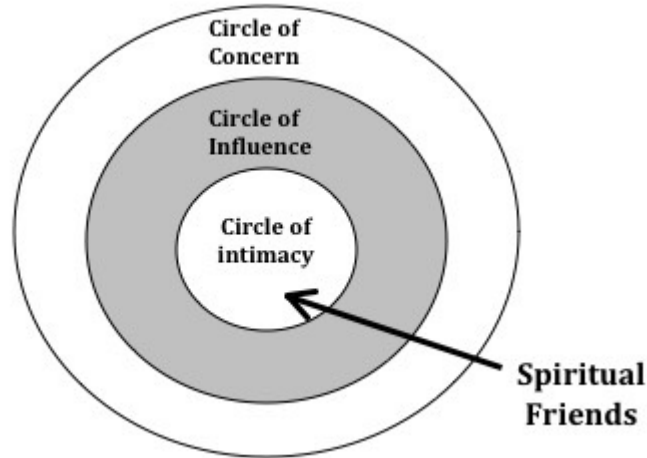
\*\*\* (NEEDS WORK) **Sin is a progression.** Most Christians don't intend to become Sodom and Gomorrah. They get there by pitching their tents near it. **Now, you might ask, "PJD, are you saying we should keep our distance from unbelieving people? I'm not even sure how that's possible in my job, or at my school--I mean, I'm surrounded by unbelievers. And didn't we just finish a series from the book of Daniel about thriving IN Babylon--isn't that the same thing as saying, 'thrive in Sodom'?"**

Yes! Very astute question. **God calls us to be in the world but not to make our home there. There's a difference in living in the world and making your home there.** You say, "Well how can I be around Sodom, but not commit the mistake of Lot?"

It has to do with whom you choose to make your CLOSE friends--your community. The ones you make your inner circle are where you "pitch your tents." **You see, Scripture says that whom you hang around with is who you become like.**

- **"He who walks with wise men will be wise, but a companion of fools will be destroyed." Prov 13:20**
- A friend of mine says it this way: **"You show me your friends and I'll show you your future." Craig Groeschel**
- He says, "You will become the average of your 5 closest friends."

**You say, "But PJD, are you saying we shouldn't have any non-Christian friends?"** No, I'm not saying that, but there's a difference between 'core community' and those you are trying to reach. I've heard it explained like this: **3 circles of friendship:**



**The point of the circle of concern is to be reaching out to them! Trying to warn them!** Are you actively trying to warn the people in this outer circle, to influence them for the gospel? At the Summit we encourage you to have a “one”--“WY1?”--one person outside the faith you are building a relationship with and praying for. That’s this circle.

**You have to decide who do you want to be and then pitch your tents there, metaphorically speaking. So, ask yourself: Who do you want to be? Where do you want to belong? Is your choice of community going to lead you there?** And how long are you going to go back and forth between both worlds?

- **I’ll say it again:** The most miserable person in the world is the half-committed Christian! They are just enough in the world... and just enough into God. Their soul is salty, and not in a good way. Dry. Famished. Miserable! Choose a side of the road--
- And Jesus doesn’t look favorably on the half-committed either--“i wish you were cold or hot. But lukewarm makes me want to spit you out of my mouth.”
- **He loves you**, but wants you to be one way or the other. **A lot of our students think they get their high school and college years to play around with the world and put God off till later. That’s not true. When you pitch your tents in Sodom it gets harder and harder to leave.**
- **You need to choose who you want to belong to. You need to decide WHETHER JESUS is WORTHY OF the offering of YOUR LIFE or not and go one way or the other.**
- And if you decide that he is, the most practical application of that will be who you make your closest friends.
- Or who you choose to date. Because your home is going to be the most shaping influence on your kids and you. So, if you are a Christian, make up your mind that you’re ONLY going to date committed Christians.

## 2. The coming judgment is REAL

- **For years God had warned Sodom and Gomorrah** about the coming judgment, but everyone brushed it off as unreal and went back to partying. But God makes no empty promises, and so one day it came.
- God tells us **he is slow in executing judgment** to give people space to repent. But don’t confuse his slowness with his absence.
  - **Heb 9;27** says, **“It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that, the judgment.”** It’s appointed. There is a day, and it is coming.
  - **Jamie.**



- **Every person you know is going to spend eternity in one of 2 places. Did you know Jesus talked more about hell than heaven? Have you ever thought about what it must be like? Jonathan Edwards, the 18<sup>th</sup> century American theologian, said, regarding Jesus' teaching on hell: If you take these things seriously, *"Imagine yourself cast into a fiery oven, glowing with heat... And imagine that your body was going to lie there for a quarter of an hour, full of fire, inside and out—feeling every fiber of it the whole time. **What horror** would you feel at the entrance of such a furnace! And how long would that quarter of an hour seem to you! **If it was measured by an hourglass, how slowly would the time seem to go! And after you had endured it for one minute, how overbearing would it be to you to think that you had another fourteen left. **But what if you knew you must lie there, enduring that torment in its fullness for 24 hours? How much greater, even, if you knew you must endure it for a whole year? How much greater still, if you knew you must endure it for a thousand years? **But wouldn't your heart sink if you knew you must bear it forever and ever? That there would be no end? That after millions of millions of ages, your torment would be no nearer to an end than before...and that you should never, never be rescued. **But your torment in hell will be immeasurably greater than this. How utterly inexpressible and inconceivable! How your heart and soul would sink in such a case."***********
- How can you call someone your friend if you believe this but you've never warn them? And **what will your friends say to you at the Judgment** if you never told them? "What... you knew about this and never told me?"
  - **(Rhonda)** *What will your friends say to you on the day of judgment? "How could you call me 'friend' and stay silent?"*
- Listen: **THE GREATEST HYPOCRISY of all time is saying you believe in heaven and hell and not doing everything you can to keep those you care about from going there.**

### 3. You cannot DRIFT into godliness

- Again, **Lot did not make a deliberate choice to make Sodom his home.** He just drifted there.
- **I need you to understand: Living for Jesus in this world will always feel like an uphill battle, because you are going against the current, and EVERYTHING in the world will be pulling you in the other direction.** Which means if you are not actively fighting, you are drifting the wrong way.
  - **Have you ever been at the beach and gotten pulled way down the shore by the current? You're just out riding your raft and body surfing and jumping in the waves and you look up and somehow you're 15 houses down the coast. **That's like the pull of our world.**** If you're not actively fighting you are drifting away.
  - To go with Jesus you have to **swim against the stream**, and that takes effort. Jesus said it this way in the Gospel of Matthew, **"The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it."** (Matt 7:13–14, NLT) It's broad, it's easy.

So, again I say: You can't drift into godliness. You'll never drift into spiritual maturity. Or into leadership. That takes daily, focused effort. To become what no one else is becoming, you have to do what no one is doing. You have to be different.

At camp, I mentioned a couple of ways I see some of our teenagers tempted to drift; places where they are **drifting when they need to be fighting.** And I'd say these apply just as much to parents:

**DRIFTING = Not actively seeking to know God and his Word:** It's not that you reject the Bible, you just give all your time to Snapchat, Tiktok, Instagram reels, Netflix binging and video games, and comparatively none to spiritual growth. You don't do a daily quiet time or join in the leadership cohorts we offer or take advantage of the discipleship and mission opportunities we have. You spend all your time on Snapchat staring at life in Sodom.

- **Friend: "Broad is the gate that leads to destruction...!"**
- Parents, your family won't drift into godliness. The current of the world will always take them quickly away from God.
- Listen, I'm always disturbed by the stats on high school students who grow up in churches like this one and then leave it behind, and I know you are too. And I know these are always complex questions and we should never affix blame--I mean, after all God created only 2 humans directly and they both walked away.
- But, I will say that for many Christian teenagers the transition out of church is not that difficult because the families they grew up in were not that much different than the world. Sure, you were fairly regular in church, but you basically lived by the world's values; you spent your money like the world spends theirs; you allocated your time like the world allocates theirs; the only major difference in your life is you added in church attendance on the weekend. So when the kid goes off to college it's pretty easy to discard that habit. They felt more at home in Sodom anyway.
  - Listen, parents... You know that church is a REALLY difficult habit to maintain if God is not a passion for you. I mean, you have to get up on Sunday morning and get dressed and find a parking space and sit with a bunch of strangers. If God is not a passion for you, that's an easy habit to drop.
- If a child doesn't see Jesus as the center and passion of your life, church is an easy habit to drop in college.
- **Again: Parents, your family. WILL. NOT. DRIFT. Into. godliness. To become what no one else is becoming, you have to do what no one is doing.**

**I told our students at camp: We need a generation committed to go against the flow.** I challenged them to be that group **that goes against the current TOGETHER. To** get on a text stream with their friends and say: "Let's be that group of friends that is different. Let's check on each other about how our quiet times were; let's pray for each other, and hold each other accountable on sexual purity and sharing Christ with our friends and generosity and reading the Bible and whatever. Let's prioritize being at small group and serving in student ministry even when it's lazier and easier to stay home." Students, why not do that?

**Parents, why not make the same commitment in how we lead our families?** That Jesus will come first and that he will be the living, breathing center of all that we do?

*So, that's one way I see Christian teenagers drifting when they should be fighting. Here's another.*

**DRIFTING = Not warning your friends about coming judgment;** Not only, like Lot, are you becoming more and more indistinguishable from Sodom, you never warn the people in your Sodom about the judgment you believe is coming. You're just too embarrassed, or you don't want to be seen as too extreme or a radical. Hey, new flash: the message is RADICAL! Judgment is coming. And only those found in Christ can be saved.

**Friend, if you believe that, how can you not be telling them?**

- What are your friends going to say to you on judgment day if you never even spoke up to warn them? How can you even call them your friends?
- How much do you have to hate somebody not to even warn them?



- God put you there in their lives to be a warning, to be his messenger to them; to tell them about coming judgment and God's offer of salvation in Jesus. **How could you let an unwillingness** to be seen as different or a little weird keep you from warning them?

Which leads me to the last one...

#### 4. BECOME an Abraham to the Lots in your life

- I mentioned that **when it was time for Lot to flee Sodom**, when judgment was just moments away, Lot hesitated, and when he did, vs. 16 tells us, "the angels seized his hand and the hands of his wife and two daughters and rushed them to safety outside the city, because the Lord was merciful" (Gen 19:16).<sup>1</sup>
- **Question: Why did God have the angels do this for Lot? I mean, by this point**, Lot seems to be as bad as the rest of them--in fact, you could argue that he's **WORSE**, because he knew better. And he'd been warned continuously about the wickedness of Sodom but he ignored it. So, in a way, he's more guilty than everyone else, not less! **So why did the angels grab** his hands and drag him and his family, and only them, to safety?
- **Vs. 29 tells us the answer:** "But God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain." (19:29)
  - Friends, listen. This is a **LIFE CHANGER**: There was **ONE REASON** God saved Lot and his family. Abraham had prayed for them. Lot didn't deserve rescue, but somewhere back there was a man who loved him and prayed for him and for his sake, Abraham's sake, God saved Lot. He sent his angels to literally pull him out of Sodom to safety.
  - And when Lot hesitated, the angels pulled even harder, BECAUSE ABRAHAM PRAYED. If Abraham hadn't, it seems Lot would have perished along with Sodom.
  - **Could we get a clearer picture of the power of prayer?**

I know that I'm here before you because I had a mom who prayed for me...

## MUSIC

In one of the books **Veronica and I use to pray for our kids**, *Prayers for Your Children*, the author tells the story of a lady in his church named Sarah who got a phone call one evening.<sup>2</sup> The voice on the other end of the line said,

"Mom, the good news is I've become a Christian."

Sarah said. "And the bad news?"

The story that followed was one no parent hopes to hear. Sarah's son had been caught smuggling drugs in the trunk of his car across state lines. There was little doubt he would be found guilty, and it looked like Robert would go to prison for years.

<sup>1</sup> I'm indebted here to James Banks for these insights and application to praying for our children from his, *Prayers for Prodigals and Prayers for Your Children*, 111–13.

<sup>2</sup> James Banks, *Prayers for Your Children*, Pp. 319–20

Sarah had one her best to raise her son to believe in Jesus. Every Sunday of his young life found them at church, but the lure of wealth and the world pulled him to a place Sarah never imagined. Still, she placed Robert in God's hands day by day and loved him through her prayers.

After he repented, Sarah still grieved the mistakes he had made, but she was grateful to see a sincere new faith in him. When the case against Robert was dismissed on a technicality, no one was more surprised than Sarah. And no one was more pleased as her son continued steadfastly in following Jesus.

It was four decades later that I met Robert. Sarah was celebrating her eighty-first birthday and her children and grandchildren had gathered around her to reminisce. The air was full of laughter as one by one they shared their stories.

When Robert stood to speak he was doing his best to hold it together. He talked with profound tenderness about his mom, speaking of her like someone who literally saved his life. You might have noticed, from their shared glances, that there was a special understanding between mom and son, like two people who had returned from a long and difficult journey with a story known only to each other. Robert wrapped up with the words of a well-known poem.

*You may have tangible wealth untold;  
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.  
Richer than I, you can never be --  
I had a mother who prayed for me*

**That's our role. And I've got even more good news for you.** We can pray for others with even more power than Abraham did!

- **Remember Abraham's prayer? It was like a negotiation? Lord, would you spare for 50? How about 45; how about 30, 20...** And finally, when Abraham got to 10, he just gave up. He couldn't even *find 10 righteous*.

**Here's the good news:** You and I need look no farther than ONE. **We can pray in the name of 1.** **There is ONE righteous**, and he is so supremely righteous, so altogether perfect and lovely that God says that we can pray in his name, and for his sake God hears our prayers and delivers our friends, or our siblings, our parents or whomever we have set our love on.

- **Friend, Jesus did this for you. He prayed for you! He came after you.** Now it is your turn to do this for your friends.
- **Are you ready to become an Abraham to the LOTS in your life?**

### Invitation (3-part)

So, let me ask you to bow your heads. As you do, I'm going to call our prayer and pastoral teams to come get in place, because I have a few invitations for you

- The first: Get saved or get serious: come up here, take the hand of one of these prayer team members, or **Text READY to 33933**
- Covenant to swim upstream: high school students
  - Come up here to pray
- **What Lot in your life do you need to be an Abraham to?** Come up here and pray for them. Yes, you can stay in your seat and pray, but it can mean more to physically move and adopt a posture that declares your dependence on God and your desperation for him.

I invite you to apply one of those right now...

- \*One I extended to our teenagers that I don't do nearly enough: **Surrender to ministry? Tell your campus pastor**
- **As they come to pray, let me say to all of us: We want to be a praying church.** In just a minute, your campus pastors will tell you about more opportunities. We have a gathering every Monday at noon at all campuses. I go regularly to the one here at CPC. Join us. They will tell you about that and many other opportunities in just a moment.

