

## 20260104 The Posture of a Truly Blessed Man – Ps Bijoy

Genesis 18:1-5

“Then the Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him; and when he saw *them*, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground, and said, “My Lord, if I have now found favor in Your sight, do not pass on by Your servant. Please let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. And I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts. After that you may pass by, inasmuch as you have come to your servant.”

### Context

This happened a short time after the events of Genesis 17. In Genesis 17:21, God said Sarah would give birth one year later, and at this time she was not yet pregnant; so, this couldn't be more than three months after the events in Genesis 17.

“The Lord appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre... in the heat of the day” (18:1), the time when the Abraham would have taken the customary afternoon nap. It is clear that the Lord came to Abraham in human appearance. We (Christians) believe that this was God, in the Person of Jesus Christ, appearing to Abraham with His two Angels before His incarnation and birth at Bethlehem.

The terebinth trees of Mamre are a significant location in Abraham's life. Abraham built an altar there (Genesis 13:18). And Abraham, Sarah and their son Isaac was buried there. Furthermore, though the Lord (in the Person of Jesus Christ) appeared to Abraham twice before (Genesis 12:7, 17:1), we don't know if the Eternal Son of God in human form looked the same each time, or if Abraham simply knew who it was by spiritual revelation, familiarity of the visitors or customs of culture, but he bowed himself to the ground.

### A Heart Aligned with God

He also offers a morsel of bread in order to persuade them to stay for a feast he will later provide. We can see how very eager he was to honour God with his generosity. In verses 6 to 8,

“So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, “Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread.” Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. When the food was ready, Abraham

took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees.”

Look at the posture of his heart: he offered a morsel and gave a banquet. A real spiritual person will realize that everything he or she has is from the Lord, and everything he gives back to God- as monetary offerings, ministries, or charities is our great privilege. And we do so in humility, not for recognition, not for applause, but because we have the honour to serve the Lord.

The Scripture is clear about encouraging and appreciating our fellow brethren for the good work they do in the Lord’s kingdom. We have a spiritual responsibility to identify the hard work people do in this church and in other places, and to appreciate, encourage, and bless them (we have so many dedicated people serving the Lord tirelessly in this church, and we thank God for you). And it’s true that at times people don’t even realize the hard work we do, and we might feel genuinely neglected and sad. However, if I or we serve the Lord for significance and praise, we are not serving God but ourselves in the name of God; most often, this is very subtle. Abraham gave a banquet to his visitors as though he did nothing but offered only a morsel.

In this new year, let’s walk humbly before the Lord, constantly examine our hearts , is our mouth and words aligned with our heart, and is our heart aligned with the Word of God? As I was preparing this sermon, I realized that I must constantly examine my heart before God and seek His continual help to walk before Him in humility.

1 Peter 5:6,

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

And in chapter 18 verse 10, the Lord blessed Abraham and promised him that he would have a son soon.

Now in verses 16 to 18:

“Then the men got up from their meal and looked out toward Sodom. As they left, Abraham went with them to send them on their way.

“Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the Lord asked. “For Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed through him.”

And then in verse 20, the Lord reveals His intentions about Sodom to Abraham:

“So the Lord told Abraham, “I have heard a great outcry from Sodom and Gomorrah, because their sin is so flagrant.”

And in verses 22 and 23:

“The other men turned and headed toward Sodom, but the Lord remained with Abraham. Abraham approached him and said, “Will you sweep away both the righteous and the wicked?”

Here you can see the burden of Abraham. God has blessed him. He has money, power, and status in society. The only thing he did not have was a son or child, and here in this chapter God promised him that surely Abraham will have a child. So truly Abraham is blessed by the Lord. Abraham should rejoice and be merry, but the Scripture says Abraham stood before the Lord and started pleading for Sodom. Some scholars believe it is because of his nephew Lot. I believe so too.

But why should Abraham be worried about Lot and his family? After all, Lot was selfish and greedy, and he took the green land for himself (please read Genesis 13). So why should Abraham cry and pray for a selfish man and his family? Lot chose the land of Sodom, so let him suffer the consequences of his choices?

Here you can see the heart of a truly blessed man. The Bible says Abraham stood before the Lord because he truly cared about perishing people. There are two things I want to explain from this section.

Firstly, in this journey of life, we do face unpleasant situations. People whom we loved hurt us, disappointments happen, and sometimes, due to many reasons, people who once walked with us are not walking with us anymore. All these are realities in this fallen world. But remember, a true Christian must let go of the past. Past hurts, failures, bitterness, disappointment, and so on. Truly forgive everyone who has hurt you and let go of everything. Yes, maybe the relationship with them is different now. It is okay. Let go and look forward. God has greater things planned for you and let not any of the past stop you.

Secondly, we must have a burden for lost souls. We must pray for them and seek every opportunity to reach out to them and serve them.

This burden flows out of God’s covenant purpose itself. From the beginning, Abraham was blessed so that he might be a blessing to the nations. Standing before the Lord for Sodom shows that Abraham understood this calling. He does not withdraw into personal comfort after receiving promises. Instead, he steps into the role of an intercessor, standing between judgment and mercy. This reveals that spiritual maturity is not measured by how much we receive from God, but by how much we carry the heart of God for others.

Abraham's prayer also teaches us that true compassion is costly. He pleads for people who probably will never thank him, for a city that does not repent, and for a nephew who made selfish choices. This kind of prayer is not driven by fairness but by grace. It reflects a heart that has been shaped by God's mercy and therefore longs to see mercy extended, even where it seems undeserved. In this moment, Abraham's intercession points us forward to Christ, who would one day stand before the Father on behalf of a lost world. Where Abraham pleaded for mercy, Jesus would become the mercy, laying down His life so that those under judgment might be brought into life.

Finally, Abraham accomplished extraordinary things through his ordinary ministry. He served the Lord and His angels, and God made him a great nation. He prayed to the Lord, and God saved Lot and his children. Give each day, your ordinary life, to God as a form of worship. Trust God for the present and the future. Do not think what you are doing is insignificant. Let God decide that. Live to please Him, and you may fail many times, but let this be your desire. God help me live to please you. Let this be my prayer. Help me to live my life as an offering to you.