

Sept 24 – Small Groups - Genesis 18 – Hospitality to God

1. Do you sense that as a community we are ready, prepared to extend belonging to the other, the stranger, the marginalized? Why or why not?

Read Genesis 18

2. With three strangers arriving at his tent Abraham moves into action, formed by the muscle memory of Bedouin hospitality. What do we learn about hospitality to the other from this example? What impact would such hospitality have on the recipient? Giver?

3. In this one interaction we see God's tender mercy toward Sarah and his fiery judgment of Sodom. What do we learn about God's mercy and his judgment from this story?

4. How did the mercy and judgement of God shape Abraham's prayer?

5. Such a heart change is available to all of us as we extend hospitality to God. In the sermon Tim mentioned from the text three principles of extending such hospitality. 1) Let God be God. 2) Be open and vulnerable with Him and 3) Receive the one to whom Abraham points. What impact does each have on our hearts? Which of the three did you personally resonate with and why?

6. How can such an encounter with God's mercy and judgment in Jesus shape our hearts? (Perhaps consider how this impacts your sense of self, your relationships, and your engagement with matters of justice)