

“I Surrender All”

Genesis 22 NIV

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

2 Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. **We will worship and then we will come back to you.**”

6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and **he himself carried the fire and the knife.** As the two of them went on together, 7 Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?”

8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

“Here I am,” he replied.

12 “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”

13 Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”

Vs. 1

Some time later God tested Abraham.

- This was not so much a test to *produce* faith, as it was a test to *reveal* faith. God built Abraham slowly, piece by piece, year by year, into a man of faith. This test would reveal some of the faith God had built into Abraham.

He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

- Abraham's quick answer to the call is a wonderful example of how the man or woman of faith should respond to God. When Abraham said, "**Here I am,**" it meant that he was ready to listen, ready to be taught, ready to obey, ready to surrender...

Vs. 2

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

God said, "Take your son, your only son

Was Isaac Abraham's only son?

What about Ishmael?

- Ishmael symbolizes the work of the flesh...
- Isaac symbolizes the work of the Spirit...

Its interesting that God didn't recognize what came from the flesh only what came by the Holy Spirit...

God said:

Take your Son,

Your Only Son,

Whom You Love

Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering

Can you imagine God asking someone to give up something they love?

Something that they have been hoping for and waiting for, for a long time?
Something that came as a Promise from God and an answer to prayer?
something dear to them?

- Abraham had to learn the difference between trusting the promise and trusting the Promiser...
- If we were not careful we can put God's promise before God Himself...
- Trust the Promiser no matter what, and the promise will be taken care of.

Vs. 3

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey.

There is no sign of hesitation on Abraham's part.

Abraham **rose early in the morning** to do what God asked.

It must have been a sleepless night for Abraham.

Abraham's obedience showed that he trusted God, *even when he did not understand*. Sometimes we say, "I'm not going to obey or believe unless I understand first" but that is to put myself on an equal standing with God.

Abraham's obedience showed he had faith in God! He didn't *debate or seek counsel from others*. He knew what to do and refused to stall.

- "Delayed obedience is disobedience"...

Abraham's obedience showed that he trusted God, *even when he didn't feel like it*. There is not a line in this text about how Abraham felt, not because he didn't feel, but because he walked by faith, not feelings.

Vs. 9-11

9 When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. **10** Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

- I believe the safest place in the world is the middle of God's Will...
- There was a confidence in Abraham...
 - He must have known somehow it was going to be alright.
 - He told his servants "We will return."
 - He lays his son on the altar of Surrender & Obedience knowing God has a plan...

This makes me think of other:

- Chuck and Thelma Pulver have trusted God and placed their daughter Rhonda on the altar of Surrender to God...
- Rhonda has served as a missionary in very sensitive muslim countries and God has watched over her and kept her...
- Next week you get to hear from Fabian Gretch who lives with his family 30 miles from Baghdad in Iraq and is a bold witness for Jesus...

The Lord said to Abraham, "Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

Vs. 14

So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

Abraham didn't name the place *Mount Trial*, *Mount Agony* or *Mount Sacrifice*. Instead, he named the hill in reference to what *God* did; he named it *Mount Provision*. He named it *Jehovah Jireh - God my Provider*

- Not only did God provide for Abraham but because Abraham had a Surrendered heart and was obedient the Lord the Lord said I'm going to Bless You abundantly...

Vs. 16

...“I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Closing

Matthew 16 NKJV

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.