



Pastor Derrick Shields “A Life Of Wholeness: Journey Through The Wall” 3/6/2022

Key Verses:

- Genesis 22:1-14

Key Thoughts:

- God brings us to and through walls in our lives. The Wall was referred to as the ancients as “the dark night of the soul.” Sometimes this appears through a crisis that turns our world upside down: a job loss, the loss of a family member, a betrayal, a disillusioning church experience, a deep desire to marry that remains unfulfilled, a loss of joy in our relationship with God. These walls cause us to question ourselves, God, our faith.
- Abraham gives us a picture of someone that God brings to multiple walls in his life. In the first verse of Genesis 22, we see that God tested Abraham. God has brought Abraham to a wall.
- Isaac is the promise that God had given Abraham. Now God had asked Abraham to sacrifice that promise, his only son, as a burnt offering.
- Abraham had to travel more than a day, thinking about what God has asked him to do. He has no idea why this is happening or if God will show up. Verse 4 tells us that on the third day of their travel, Abraham sees the place where God had told him to go.
- God led Abraham to surrender his dream and his will to God.

Characteristics of Life on the Other Side

1. *A greater level of brokenness*
 - Matthew 5:3
2. *A greater appreciation for the mystery of God*
 - “God is not an object that I can determine, master, possess, or command.”
-Thomas Merton
 - “This is the ultimate knowledge about God, to know that we do not know.”
-St. Thomas Aquinas
3. *A greater detachment from things of this world*
 - “Am I happy vs am I free?” Thomas Merton
 - Luke 18:18-30
4. *A greater ability to wait for God*
 - Psalm 27:14
 - Psalm 130:5-6
 - Those who waited...
 - Abraham learned to wait...at 75, told he would be the father of nations. 11 years later took matters in his own hands...Ishmael born through Hagar (Genesis 16:1-4). Had to wait another 14 years for Isaac. God transformed him into a father of faith for all history.
 - Moses learned to wait...after murdering a man and failing to deliver the Israelites...waited 40 years in desert before being called again to deliver



the Israelites. God transformed him into the meekest man on earth (Numbers 12:3).

- David learned to wait...after victory over Goliath...waited for 10-13 years while fleeing Saul before becoming King. God transformed him into a man after his own heart (1 Samuel 1-2 Samuel 1)
- Jesus learned to wait as a carpenter's son and in the wilderness, resisting the temptation of the devil to act before his Father's time. Out of his waiting, Jesus emerged from the wilderness in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:14).

Discussion Questions:

- What is a wall that God has brought you to in your life? What did he teach you in it?
- What might be some unhealthy attachments or "idols" God wants to remove from your life in order to lead you to deeper, richer communion with him?
- What things or people are you rooting your identity in that God may want to dig up so that so that your identity might be replanted in him?
- Which of the characteristics of life on the other side of the wall do you most need to move towards? How can you begin to do this?