

Genesis 22:1-18 (NLT)

1 Some time later, **God tested Abraham's faith**. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah.

Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

3 The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for **the place** God had told him about.

4 On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw **the place** in the distance. 5 "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. **We will worship there**, and then we will come right back." 6 So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, 7 Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?" 8 "**God will provide a sheep** for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. 9 When they arrived **at the place where God had told him to go**, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood.

10 And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. 11 **At that moment** the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!" 12 "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said.

"Do not hurt him in any way, **for now I know that you truly fear God**. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son." 13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering **in place of** his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide").

To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

15 Then the angel of the LORD called **again** to Abraham from heaven. 16 "This is what the LORD says: **Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son**, I swear by my own name that 17 **I will CERTAINLY bless you**. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. 18 And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—**all because you have obeyed me**."

*On The Other Side
Of The Test*

Genesis 22:1-18

Introduction

*In almost every area of your life there comes a moment when you must take **A TEST**, **AN EXAMINATION** of some sort, and the results of **THAT TEST** gives **access** to what's next... The **TEST** is now...For **ACCESS** to what's next... Don't quit **now**, before acquiring what's **next**...*

*There is a **TEST** required for any profession or vocation you may want to pursue. Whether you want to be a barber, a physician, a lawyer or an engineer there comes a moment when you must take and pass a **TEST** before you can proceed any further. Testing Is **Necessary** and often **Mandatory***

*The Education Field uses **PROFICIENCY-BASED LEARNING**... Proficiency-based learning refers to systems of **instruction**, **assessment**, **grading**, and **academic reporting** that are based on students **DEMONSTRATING** that they have **LEARNED** the knowledge and skills they are **EXPECTED TO LEARN** as they **PROGRESS** through their education. **PROFICIENCY** leads to **PROMOTION***

*However, it is important to note that there are two different types of **TESTS** we will be called upon to pass to **PROGRESS** on our journey. One of those tests is to measure the content of your **knowledge**; that is a **HEAD TEST**. The other kind of test measures the content of our **character**; it is a test of **THE HEART**.*

*To put it another way, some exams are designed to find out **WHAT YOU KNOW**, but other exams that are designed to find out **“WHO YOU ARE?”***

Introduction

Just as testing brings *validity* and *credibility* in the secular, it also does the same in the *spiritual*...

God gives tests to bring *validity to your values*, and *credibility to your character*...

Life is a series of attitude tests designed to bring out what's *IN YOU*...

Many people will *PROCLAIM* who they are, but God requires you to *PRACTICE* what you say

Many people will *VERBALIZE* what they believe, but God requires you to *VALIDATE* it

Many people will *ANNOUNCE THEIR AFFILIATION* with Christ, but God requires that you *AUTHENTICATE* it

Many people will stand and *DECLARE* him as Lord, but God requires that you *DEMONSTRATE* that you trust him

Don't Just Proclaim it... Prove it... Don't Just Talk About It ~ Be About It

I know you said, God is my everything ~ Here is a Test ~ Prove It

I know you said, I will trust in the Lord until I Die ~ Here is a Test ~ Prove It

I know you said, Your Worship Was For Real ~ Here is a Test ~ Prove It

I know you said, I Don't Have Jealous Bone In My Body ~ Here Is A Test ~ Prove It

We must come to the realization that *TESTING* leads to *TRUSTING*

God will *TEST* us to know that he can *TRUST* us...

Introduction

That's the sentiment we see in this text before us this morning...

*God **KNEW** what was in Abraham's heart, but it needed to be **on display**... He knew when Abraham got up and headed up the mountain that he had **some faith**...but God wanted him to display **finishing faith**... God has given us a measure of faith...but do you have faith to trust God **UNTIL COMPLETION**...*

*Do you have **the faith** to walk through the valley ~ to sit at the table that is prepared in the presence of enemies*

*Do you have **the faith** to go through your difficult season ~ to experience the good things that God has in store*

*Do you have **the faith** to go through the crisis ~ to enjoy the exceeding and abundance on the other side of the test*

*Abraham was given a difficult and demanding **COMMAND** ~ But he endured until **COMPLETION***

***COMMAND** in vs. 2 _____ **CONCLUSION** in vs. 12*

*What **enabled** Abraham to get through this difficult and demanding Test*

*What **enabled** Abraham to fulfill his assignment and remain faithful to his Lord*

*What **enabled** Abraham to not get weary in well doing and make it to his due season*

*What **enabled** Abraham to trust the Lord with all his heart and lean not to his own understanding*

*How did he pass **THE TEST** to enjoy the blessing on the other side?*

Display Determination Until The Manifestation

Genesis 22:1 (ESV)

1 After these things God tested Abraham.....

The text says, "After these things.... God had given Abraham a promise in Genesis chapter 12 ~He tells him...

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

That was a mighty **PROMISE** given to him in Chapter 12.

Here we find Abraham in Chapter 22, but he has yet to experience the **MANIFESTATION** of the **PROMISE**.

Manifestation – "discovery to the eye or to the understanding"

Mark 4:22 says, "For whatever is hidden **is meant to be** revealed, and whatever is concealed **is meant to be** brought out into the open."

We have people who love to shout over **GOD'S PROMISES** but never experience **THE MANIFESTATION**

They fail to **DISPLAY THE DETERMINATION** necessary for Manifestation

The enemy is not going to let you just walk into your blessing

The enemy is not going to let you just name and claim and enjoy your breakthrough

God is not going to allow you to just easily, conveniently, casually, and comfortably walk into your blessing...

You must be **DETERMINED TO STAY FAITHFUL** until you receive all that God has in store for you....

Display Determination Until The Manifestation

Genesis 22:1 (ESV)

1 *After these things* God tested Abraham.....

Before God manifests the promise to Abraham, he takes him through a **SERIES OF TESTS**...

The Family Test – leave his loved ones and step out on faith to a new land {Passed}

The Famine Test – Abraham doubted God and went down to Egypt for help? {Failed}

The Fellowship Test – Abraham gave Lot first choice in acquiring the best land...{Passed}

The Fight Test – Abraham defeated the foreign kings in Genesis 14 ...{Passed}

The Fortune Test- Abraham said no to the wealth of Sodom {Passed}

The Fatherhood Test – Abraham and Sarah got impatient with God and he had a child by Hagar {Failed}

The Farewell Test – God instructed him to send his son away in Genesis 21 and it broke his heart... {Passed}

Although he didn't pass every test, he was still **PROGRESSING** toward **THE PROMISE**. Just because he didn't pass every test didn't **NULLIFY** him from **THE PROMISE**. That's shouting news for some of us here this morning.

The reason why I praise God is not because I've dotted every I, and crossed every T, but it's because of his grace and his mercy. Just like Abraham, I failed some tests along the way, but my failure didn't **forfeit** my blessing or **foreclose** on my **future**. It was my failed tests that helped me grow....

It was my failures that kept me humbled –

My Shout ~ God didn't kick me to curb- he looked beyond my faults... Even though you fall ~ **STAY DETERMINED**

The Manifestation May Require Separation

Genesis 22:4-5 (NLT)

4 On the third day of their journey, **Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.**

5 **“Stay here with the donkey,”** Abraham told the servants. **“The boy and I will travel a little farther.**

*There are those who don't want to see you **FINISH**... There are those who are waiting to see you **FALL**... There are those who have purposed in their heart to halt, hinder, and hold you back from achieving what God has for you...*

*Distractors will always try to stop you from **finishing what you start**....*

*They can't stop the **PROMISE** ~ But they can hinder your **PROGRESS***

***Galatians 5:7** ~ You were running well. **WHO** hindered you from obeying the truth?*

In the case of Nehemiah... Sanballat, Tobias, and Gresham were determined to stop Nehemiah from finishing the wall... They tried to ridicule, threaten, harass, manipulate, mock, and intimidate the people of God from completing their task....

*But Nehemiah was **COMMITTED** to doing what God had enabled him to do...*

Jesus was tempted in the garden to give up...but he said to his disciples, sit here and he withdrew from them, knelt down and prayed...

*Jesus goes to heal Jairus' daughter and he is greeted by crying and moaning...Jesus asks the question, why are yall crying, she is only sleep...They laughed ~ **Mark 5:40** says Jesus put them out...*

The Manifestation May Require Separation

Genesis 22:4-5 (NLT)

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5 “*Stay here with the donkey,*” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I *will travel a little farther.*”

James McDowell states, “Isolation/Separation occurs for a sufficient **PERIOD OF TIME**. This time is for **EVALUATION, RE-ASSESSMENT** and **GREATER SURRENDER** to Christ... In Isolation **Direction is Clarified, Purposes are Re-defined, and Values are Deepened.**”

There are some things that God is requiring you to set aside before the manifestation...

3 Key Elements of Separation

DIRECTION ~ Kept his eyes on **THE PLACE** he needed to go ~

DECISION ~ Didn't allow them to decide if they were going or not ~

DISTANCE ~ Sometimes you just have to go little farther to get what God has for you

Songwriter said...

I Believe I will Run ON... **TO SEE** What The End Is Going To Be...

Develop The Proper Expectation Before The Manifestation

Genesis 22:5 (NLT)

*5 “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and **then we will come right back.**”*

*God had spoken to Abraham and told him to sacrifice his son, his only son...as **a burnt offering...***

*Translation **Kill him....***

*Command says **Kill Him** ~ Command says **Sacrifice Him** ~ Command says **Offer Him Up...***

*But my faith says, “**WE WILL BE BACK**”*

*Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable,
do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible...*

*Abraham’s faith says, I can’t **EXPLAIN WHAT** God is going to do... All I know is He is going to do **SOMETHING...***

Faith says, I don’t understand what or why I have to deal with this...

*But **WHEN** I come out... I **WILL BE/SHALL BE** better wiser and stronger...*

Faith Requires An Expectation That Says...

*I don’t have all the details ~ **But I Believe***

*I don’t have all the answers ~ **But I Believe***

*I don’t understand ~ **But I Believe***

Develop The Proper Expectation Before The Manifestation

Genesis 22:5 (NLT)

5 “We will worship there, and **then we will come right back.**”

Hebrews 11:17-19

17 **By faith** Abraham, **when he was tested**, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "**In Isaac your seed shall be called,**" 19 **concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead....**

In his mind ~ **Even if I kill him** ~ I serve a God that will get him back up again

In his mind ~ **Even if I kill him** ~ God has the POWER to **RENEW, RESTORE, and REVIVE**

This is Genesis 22 ~ No evidence of God raising the Dead....

Remember ~ When God made the Promise ~ Romans 4 says, they laughed because **Sarah's womb was Dead**

Faith says, I have some **EVIDENCE** that supports my **EXPECTATION....**

If God did **THAT** ~ Then he can do **THIS** ~ **THIS and THAT** ~ Put It All In His Hands

Abraham knew that God **SPECIALIZES IN THE IMPOSSIBLE:**

Have you any rivers that seems uncrossable

Have you any mountains that you cannot tunnel through

God specializes in things that seem impossible...

I am expecting God to do something special in my life

I am expecting God to open up a door ~ I am expecting God to bring me through

I am expecting God to make a way ~ I am expecting God to turn darkness into light

GOD WILL PROVIDE!!!

Conclusion

Tests Like Trouble Have An Expiration Date

Genesis 22:11-12 (NLT)

11 **AT THAT MOMENT** the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!”

12 “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way,

FOR NOW, I KNOW

That you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

{Don’t Forget You Grades The Paper}

Keep Making Progress That **Pleases God**

Keep Providing Service That **Pleases God**

Keep Using Your Gift That **Pleases God**

There Comes **A MOMENT** ~ When God gives **ACCESS** to the What He Has **PROMISED**

Don’t Miss Your **MOMENT** because of People who aren’t willing to Sacrifice

Don’t Miss Your **MOMENT** because of Places where you have gotten Comfortable

Don’t Miss Your **MOMENT** because of Problems that you can’t seem to Handle

Don’t Miss Your **MOMENT** because your Perspective does not align with God’s Purpose

There Is **A MOMENT** When You Look Back and Say It Was Worth It...

Conclusion

Learn to **DIFFERENTIATE** between the **PROVISION** and the **PROMISE**

There was a **Ram** caught in the Thicket ~ That was **GOD'S PROVISION**, but it wasn't **THE PROMISE**

Don't get caught in the **MOMENT of PROVISION**

And miss

The **MANIFESTATION of the PROMISE**

There was a **PLACE WHERE THE PROVISION** occurred ~ He named the **PLACE** ~ Jehovah Jirah....

God gives Him the **ASSURANCE** of What He Had Already Promised

Genesis 22:16-17 (NLT)

16 "This is what the LORD says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that 17 **I WILL CERTAINLY BLESS YOU**. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies.

Stay Focused on the **PROMISE**

Remember This

Display Determination Until The Manifestation

The Manifestation May Require Separation

Develop The Proper Expectation Before The Manifestation

Don't Stay At A PLACE of PROVISION

And miss

The MANIFESTATION of the PROMISE