

FLINT GROVES BAPTIST CHURCH

LIFE STUDY

GENESIS 22:1-19



Introduction

This is week three in a new sermon series entitled, “Stories.” In this series, we are going to look at stories in the Bible from beginning to end and trace the gospel from cover to cover. The Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. Sometimes we can be tempted to read the Bible like it’s a copy of Aesop’s Fables—a different story with each one telling us a different moral lesson on how to live. But that’s not the right way to read the Bible! Instead, we need to see the Bible as one unified book telling one unified story of how our glorious God makes us and rescues us from our own brokenness and sin.

This week, we turn to Genesis 22 and the story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac. This story is well-known, but nevertheless shocking and surprising. And in it, we catch a glimpse of the gospel.

Read Genesis 22:1-19

Sermon Review

Main Point: True faith fully surrenders to God because God provides for His children.

1. God Tests Our Faith By Asking Us To Sacrifice Our Best (22:1-8)
2. Faithful Followers of God Obey God No Matter the Cost (22:9-19)

Text Review

This is one of the last major stories that we read about in Abraham's life. We encounter Abraham in chapter 12 as a younger 75 year old man, who is worshipping pagan false idols and living with his wife Sarah with whom he has no children. And while he was a pagan man, God chose him and promised that He would make a great nation out of him and his offspring—that he would have land one day—and that the whole world would be blessed through him.

But by chapter 15, Abraham is nearing 100 and is still childless. Last week we saw that God is a God who keeps His promises and He's also a God who is at work in the waiting. When Abraham was 100 years old, he and his wife Sarah (who was 90 at the time), welcomed their first child and named him Isaac. After all those years of waiting, God kept His promise to give Abraham a son and begin to build this great nation that would come from Abraham. Now that Abraham has a son, what's next? Where will the story take us now?

Right there in verse 1 we read that God tested Abraham. Now, why would God test Abraham? Well, because although he has shown faith, he has also failed in his faith. Earlier in Genesis, he told Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister and sold her out to him. Later, he slept with his wife's servant, Hagar to try and have a child outside of God's promise.

God tests our faith either to reveal our faith or to refine our faith. When our faith is revealed through testing, it is a gift from God. We see visible and tangible proof of God

in our lives. If you have been through a testing season in your life, you know that you would never exchange the growth that comes with it, but you also wouldn't necessarily wish to go through it again either. Not only does God's testing reveal our faith, but it also refines our faith. When we are tested, we are shaped and molded by difficult moments in life. Just like a diamond grows under great pressure, so also our faith grows and is refined when confronted with testing and trials.

And so, what is the test? Abraham is told to take this promised son and to go and offer him as a burnt offering. Abraham is told to kill his son. Notice how the command is written...take your son...your only son...the son whom you love...every phrase is a further reminder of the weight and bitterness of this command.

We can only imagine what must have been going through Abraham's head. The Bible says two things about it that we can know for sure...in Hebrews 11:19, we read that Abraham believed that Isaac would be raised from the dead after being sacrificed. And the other thing that we read is that after he received this most difficult command from God, in verse 3...he rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and began the journey.

It took three days to get to Mount Moriah. Plenty of time to think. Plenty of time to turn back. Plenty of time to reverse course. But he didn't. Abraham stayed the course and set his eyes on the will of God.

Upon arrival, Isaac asks his father a question that must have been on his mind since they left—where is the lamb for the burnt offering? This question must have haunted Abraham...but not enough to turn him away from this journey of faith. Abraham tells him—the Lord will provide a lamb. Abraham was hammering out his theology on the anvil of his experience as he went up this mountain.

By this time, Isaac would have been old enough to have resisted Abraham. He was at least a teenager, if not in his twenties. Isaac was a willing participant in this offering and trusted his father who was trusting God.

The moment of truth has come. Will Abraham follow through? In verse 10, we read that Abraham took the knife to slaughter his son. And just in that moment, the angel of the Lord (which is another way of saying the Lord God here) stopped him. The test was over. Abraham had passed.

When the Lord says in the text, "now I know that you fear God" it's not as if God didn't know until that moment. God is omniscient, meaning He is all knowing. Also, God is not bound by time, which means that He can't learn new information in real time. You see, God was confirming Abraham's faith to Abraham, and He was confirming his faith for generations of Christians who would read this story for centuries. Abraham is spared from sacrificing Isaac, and instead, God brings a ram to be stuck in a thicket for the sacrifice.

The central theme of this text is shown there in verse 14 when Abraham calls the name of the place "The Lord will provide." God provided this son for Abraham, and God provided a substitute for the sacrifice of this son as well.

And now here on the other end of the test, we can see that when we believe that the Lord is the ultimate provider, it enables us to sacrifice without any reservation.

Abraham passed the test. He proved that He truly loves the Lord. Abraham didn't love God because of what he could get out of God...Abraham loved God because of who God is and because of the way that God loved Abraham first.

We can't help reading this story and seeing the biblical parallels to Jesus. Many years later, the temple would be built on Mount Moriah. Year after year, sacrifices of bulls, rams, goats, and sheep would be made at this site. A constant reminder that our sin requires a sacrifice.

And centuries later, the Son of God took on flesh, being born as a baby in a stable. His name was Jesus, and this Son of God lived the perfect life that you and I never could and died the death that you and I all deserve. He was the lamb of God who took away the sins of the world.

Discussion Questions

Ice-Breaker Questions

1. What are three things that you just don't think you could live without? (Other than the obvious...water, food, shelter)

Observation Questions

1. How does the author of Genesis describe Isaac in the opening verses? Why do you think he speaks of him this way?
2. Where in the text do you see Abraham's faith? How is his faith shown in the passage?
3. What does Abraham name this place? What do you think the significance is of that?

Interpretation Questions

1. Why does God test our faith? What good comes from testing?
2. What do you think Abraham means when he tells his servants, "I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you"?
3. How does this passage relate to the rest of the Bible? How does this story parallel to other parts of Scripture?

Application Questions

1. But just like Abraham, faith will touch our hearts and lives where it hurts! God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. What might He be asking you to sacrifice?
2. Can you honestly say that you want God more than you want the things that God can give you?
3. Pastor Jimmy asked the church to make a daily sacrifice, a weekly sacrifice, and a one-time sacrifice. What sacrifices has the Lord laid on your heart this week?

Accountability

1. How is your Bible reading?
2. How is your prayer life?
3. When was the last time you fasted and sought the Lord?
4. Are you being faithful in your financial dealings?
5. How are you pursuing our focus of being better together as a church in your own life?
6. Who are you hoping to share the gospel with in the coming weeks and months?
Do you have a plan to follow through?

Prayer

1. Give praise to God for his plan of salvation and catching glimpses of it in Genesis.
2. Ask the Lord to help us have tremendous faith, even in seasons of testing.
3. Pray that God would help our church family to be unified under the banner of the gospel.
4. Pray that you could pursue being better together with your church family in 2026.
5. Pray for our upcoming mission trips and mission partners. (Albania and Thailand teams depart in the coming weeks!)