

The Ascent...

Mountain of Faith

In the Bible, mountains are often more than just geographical features. Throughout Scripture, God often meets His people in high places. But, here is the truth we often overlook—while the view from the summit is often breathtaking...transformation happens during the climb. Whether it's Mount Sinai, Moriah, or Calvary, the ascent requires effort and a singular focus on the One we are climbing to meet.

We will explore these pivotal mountain encounters where we will see that while the terrain may be difficult...the view of God from the summit changes everything. This series isn't just about geographical peaks it's about the spiritual journey as we rise above the noise of the world to hear the voice of the Father.

The Call

1 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." Genesis 22:1-2

To meet God on the mountain we must be willing to leave the comfort of the plains.

The Weight

3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. 4 On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy[a] will go over there and worship and come again to you." 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. Genesis 22:3-6

Obedience often feels heavy before it feels holy.

The Provision

7 And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together. Genesis 22:7-8

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." Genesis 22:13-14

We often want the "Ram" while we are still at the base of the mountain. But the name Jehovah Jireh ("The Lord Will Provide") is always revealed at the summit, not the base.

The Summit

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God. 24 You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. James 2:21-24

Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah,
2 Chronicles 3:1a

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – God's thoughts are higher than ours and He calls us to join Him in the high places. But, climbing is tough work. Why do we avoid the "climb"? What are we afraid of?

Tuesday – God called Abraham to climb for a specific and difficult purpose. What has God ever asked you to give up/sacrifice that seemed simply too hard to do?

Wednesday – Things will typically seem heavy before we they are holy. But, it is in carrying this weight that we get stronger. How can this journey make you stronger body, mind, and soul?

Thursday – Abraham believed that God would provide – either a substitute or a resurrection. He believed and he obeyed. How is God testing your faith?

Friday – Jehovah Jireh, the God who provides, always comes through. How has God provided for you in your journey and ascent to meet Him?