



Three Truths About Your Biggest Trials Genesis 22:1-8

We will be tested in what is important to us.

Verses 1-2:

Text Message:

- Let's begin with some things we can say about trials:
 - 1) Trials can either be self-inflicted **or** outside of our control.
 - 2) Trials are mysterious and we won't have all the pieces.
 - 3) Trials (tests) are used by God to strengthen us.
 - 4) Trials are "tricky" because both the Hebrew and the Greek language use the same words for test and temptation.
 - 5) Trials are more about God than they are about us.
- Trials also reveal what is important to us (Verse 2):
"Take your son... Your only son... Isaac... Whom you love... Go... and offer him as a burnt offering." Verse 2
- Abraham's silence here is puzzling considering his intercession Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:22-30).
- What can we say today about such a bizarre command?
 - 1) The Abraham/son story here is a type of God/Christ and both are "unrepeatable events."
 - 2) What Abraham obeyed as **literal** has only **spiritual** application for us!
 - 3) The story here and later biblical writers reveal Abraham didn't believe he would actually/literally kill his son (Genesis 22:5,8; Hebrews 11:17-19).

We can choose to respond in worship and faith.

Verses 3-5:

Text Message:

- While we cannot choose our thoughts and feelings about our trials, but we can choose to respond in worship and faith!
- There is an emphasis here that the ESV doesn't translate, but many other versions do. Note the assurance of Abraham: 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." Verse 5, emphasis mine.
- *How can we have such faith?*
- Our faith must be tethered to the Word of God! Abraham believed because God had promised him descendants through Isaac (Genesis 21:12, Hebrews 11:18)!

We can shift our perspective of the trial.

Verse 8:

Text Message:

- Our trial is more about God than it is about us!
- Our anchors in the trial: *Who is God* and *What has God said?*
- Anchors don't stop the storm, but they do steady the ship!
- Abraham says something here that shows his anchors in the storm were *Who is God* and *What has God said*:
Abraham said, "God will provide **for himself** the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." Verse 8a
- Those two little words show that this was more about God than it was about Abraham or Isaac!
- Notice the phrase "after these things" in verse one, which is also repeated in verse 20.
- This phrase appears only here and Genesis 15:1 and serves to connect the two stories in Genesis 15 and Genesis 22.
- What happens in Genesis 15 is that God makes a promise about Abraham's offspring and stakes God's own life on it (Genesis 15:7-11 and 17-18a)!
- **And** if God promises eternal life in the world to come, can we not trust in His promises for this life?



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