

Women's Bible study.. Monday, not Tuesday

Jason Dirks==Genesis 22:1-19==10/29/23

Genesis Series...

We have been Working through the **LIFE of ABRAHAM**...

God appears to Abraham in **Genesis 12**---- (**Abraham is 75**).... Promises him **a SON**, who will become **a NATION**.... For whom God will Give **the PROMISED LAND** And through that Nation, Abraham's family, in that Land... there would come **one who would Bless every family on EARTH**...

Abraham and Sarah **are barren**.... Can't have kids.... This will have to be a Miracle from God.

Abraham **BELIEVES GOD**... Leaves UR... heading for the Promised Land...

And God.... **Waits**...

A decade goes By.... Abraham and Sarah are still waiting... still hoping... still wandering in the promised land... with **no baby, no land, no nation**...

Another decade goes by.... **Nothing**...

But God **keeps reminding Abraham of the Promise**. ...

Last week... **Genesis 18**... The Lord appears to Abraham (**He's 99**)... and tells him.. **one year**... **Sarah laughs**...

And then **Genesis 21:1-7** ... READ...

God is Faithful!!! God Keeps His PROMISE... NO matter how impossible His promise may seem... God is able! (**Sarah nursing a baby at 90... Abraham... changing diapers at 100**)..

And then in **Genesis 22**... God says to Abraham.... **"give him back"**... Sacrifice Isaac to me....

Let me start by asking you a question..... is this account of God commanding Abraham to sacrifice his one and only Son.... Is it **OUTLANDISH?**.... IS it **Shocking?** Is it **APPALLING** to you?

If YES, then you are understanding rightly the very **HEART of the Gospel of Jesus**...

Your Sin... Your Rebellion against God... Your trampling of His commandments is Outlandish and shocking and appalling...

And **the ONLY Means** to **ATONE** for your **Chronic, Habitual Rebellion and Wickedness Against God** was for God HIMSELF to place **His One and ONLY SON** on the Alter and Sacrifice Him **to ATONE for YOUR SIN**... To **Make a WAY** for YOU to be **Righteous** and **Forgiven** and **JUSTIFIED** and brought into **the Family of God**.

This ENTIRE ACCOUNT is **a NEON SIGN BLAZING** through the millenia of TIME POINTING to the **Lamb of God, Jesus Christ**, God's one and only Son **being sacrificed for your sin**... Taking your place... **YOU**... Pulled off the Alter... **Escaping the KNIFE of GOD'S JUDGMENT** and **JESUS willingly giving Himself for you**.

So... **everything** we talk about this morning... **See it in Light** of THE LORD PROVIDING Salvation for you THROUGH HIS SON!

→The First thing we learn is.... This is a TEST (Genesis 22:1) ...

Now... What is **a "TEST"**... Well... a TEST is a means to find out...or to display... to show... **what is in you**.

If your Math teacher gives you a "test" it is going to reveal what kind of algebra abilities are in you.... It is going to show whether or not you studied.... It is going to reveal some things.

EX→ Children of Israel after the Exodus.. in the Wilderness... experienced... hunger and thirst and all kinds of difficulties... **(DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3)**

JOB---- Satan says... take away his comfort, his prosperity, his gifts, his health, his family.... .He will hate you... he will curse you...

God says.... No... take all that away... Job will love and trust me still...

And the TESTS... reveal what is in JOB...

What is the difference between a "TEST" and a "TEMPTATION"...

James 1:12–15 ...

Temptation is an enticement to Sin..

Tests are circumstances that reveal your love and trust in God.

Temptations are rooted **in lies**...

Tests reveal **the truth**.

Tests... Purify our faith... **1 Peter 1:6-9**

Tests... Perfect our character **James 1:2-4**

Tests... Grow our faith... *(DT. 8:2.... 2 Cor. 12:7-10)*

And this is ***not the FIRST TIME***.... Immediately after God made the promises to Abraham and he left Ur for the Promised land..... ***FAMINE...*** a test to see would he trust God to care for him?

Then there was the ***TEST of TIME***.... Year after year... of no son... no nation... no land... . and yet Abraham continued believing.... Gen. 15... Abraham believed God and He counted it to him as righteousness.

There was the ***lapse of faith with Hagar*** and ***the Test*** of accepting that this was ***not the Son of PROMISE...***

Through all those trials... tests... struggles... Through ***day after day of wandering***... Through ***night after night of waiting***... Looking at his life and his empty tent.... ***ABRAHAM'S FAITH GREW...***

His ***ability to TRUST GOD GREW...***

His ***Ability to HOPE*** even when He could not see GREW...

His ***ability to Know without seeing***... to ***be sure without possessing***.... His faith grew.

And then ***Isaac is born***... wow.. ***what a day*** that must have been....

What JOY this OLD couple must have felt... seeing those ***first steps... first words***... seeing their boys ***walking*** turn into ***running*** and his ***babbling*** into ***sentences***...

God had DONE IT!!! God had DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE and NOW... All those promises of a Nation and Land and Messiah... all seemed so much closer... tangible... visible every time they LOOKED AT ISAAC...

Isaac was the Incarnation of their HOPE... of the HOPE of the WORLD!!!

And then God called to ABRAHAM... *(vs. 1-2)* ..

Have you NOTICED that ***ABRAHAM NEVER GETS THE DETAILS!!!!***

When He was called out of UR it was to ***"the land I will show you". (12:1)***

Now he is to go offer his son in sacrifice on one of the Mountains of Moriah ***that God will tell him.***

On this journey of Faith Abraham always has to Trust God for **the where... the when... The how... and many times... the Why!**

Be CAREFUL about **DEMANDING the DETAILS** from God...

If you are not willing to obey if you **don't know all the specifics**... if you don't know how it is all going to workout... if you don't know how it all will happen... and what will people say.... Etc... Then you probably **aren't trusting God**.

But NOTICE.... Beautiful thing here.... **Abraham does not LINGER!!!**

Remember **LOT** last week?? God is about to Rain down fire about Sodom.... The Angels are pleading with him to get UP and get OUT that his life might be saved... and **HE LINGERS!!!!**

But here... God commands Abraham to do **the hardest thing** anyone could ever be asked to do...

And **(VS. 3)**... Abraham **rose early in the morning**... gets Isaac ready..... saddled the donkey... cut the wood.... Loaded up and went.

What a Way to live... what if you lived that way???

You opened up your Bible and you read a clear command to you as a Born again Believer...

And you just **immediately**.... Did it.

Passage on **on forgiveness**.... You forgive

Passage on **meet the needs of the poor**.... You do it.

Passage on be **a worshipper**.... And you do..

Passage on **bear one another's burdens** and.... You get up and go and do...

Passage on **giving** and you do.

Passage on **speak words that build up** and you call someone and you start speaking.

Now... as they walked together to the Land of Moriah... What is Abraham thinking?

.....

Maybe the most interesting question for which we do not have an answer.... **Did he tell Sarah?!**

For 3 days..... Abraham is thinking that Isaac is dead. **(Hebrews 11:17-19)**

He offered him up.... Considered that God was able to raise the dead... figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Abraham has committed to do as the Lord has commanded.... **In his mind Isaac will die.**

So Abraham has **these TWO REALITIES** going on in his Mind:

1.... All the Promises were coming through Isaac.

All **the Future** that Abraham had HOPED for and prayed for and been promised by God.. All of that had to come through Isaac.

Abraham had spent **25 years waiting** on the Birth of Isaac...

The Promise of a Son, a Nation, a Land, a MESSIAH.... All of those were wrapped up in Isaac's life.

2. God told him to sacrifice Isaac.

Folks... You **can't reconcile** those 2!!!

You can't bring those two together.... God Promised a Future through Isaac's life.

God told Abraham to Sacrifice Isaac.

It doesn't add up... It doesn't make sense. There is No logic there.

But **Abraham doesn't have to reconcile those two**... Both are true... God is going to accomplish both... **a Promised future** and **a payment for sin**.

Abraham **doesn't have to know** How God will accomplish both of those... Abraham simply has to be convinced that **God will PROVIDE. (vs.8)** ...

So much of **the Christian LIFE** is just that... being able to rest in the Conviction that **"God will PROVIDE"**

We **often don't understand** how **God's Love** for us and **our suffering** intersect... How do they go together... But we trust that **God will PROVIDE**>

We **often don't understand** the **Promise to build the Kingdom** and the **struggles and sins of the church**... but **God will provide**.

We **often don't understand** the **promise to use us for ministry** and the reality of **our weakness and frailty**... **God will provide**.

We **often don't understand hard truths** like **Election and a real response of faith** intersect... but we don't have to know how all of those will fit together... Only that God will Provide.

So **for 3 Days**... Abraham **holds the Promise** and **the command** in tension... trusting that **God will provide**.

(vs. 4)--- On **the 3rd day**... he looks up and sees the place. ---- 3rd day.... Jesus was dead and in the grave for 3 days.... His disciples were absolutely baffled at how He could be the Messiah and yet dead... **God will provide**. ----**Abraham is going to Get Isaac BACK!**

Abraham Passes the TEST... (Genesis 22:9—12) ..

(vs. 12)--- For now I know that you..... **“Fear God”** ---- Is that what you expected?? Or did you expect it so say... For now I that you... **“Love God”** ... or **“Trust God”**

But God is LOOKING to SEE that ABRAHAM **“FEARS HIM”**....

NOT... Fear---in the sense of **anticipating evil**....

This is **“REVERENT AWE”**

And it is perfectly consistent with Loving God! **Deuteronomy 10:12** ... (READ)

It is the KIND of **“REVERENT AWE”**... that Treats God as THE MOST SIGNIFICANT...
THE MOST IMPORTANT...
The MOST to be RECKONED WITH..

Illus--- say you are hiking into a river to go fishing in the Alaskan Back country... The trail breaks out of the forest to the river and you immediately see Another fishermen on the other bank .. a beautiful Buck drinking at the water's edge..... A you-tuber making a video on Salmon... And a mother Grizzly bear with two cubs feasting on fish. ----- Now... should you be mindful of the deer.... Sure... try not to spook him, get some pics... but if you do... no big deal, you are there to fish. Now... should you be mindful of the other fishermen... of course... try not to snag his line, keep a respectful distance from him, be courteous.... But if you do snag his line... if you get to close and chat him up... it's probably fine. ---- But you should FEAR the BEAR!!! You should make sure that you don't in any way offend the bear... or cause the bear to think you mean her cubs harm... or get in the way of the bear fishing....

The Fear of God is the **kind of FEAR** that makes you want to **draw near to God**... but to always treat Him with the **utmost PRIORITY and IMPORTANCE**....

The Fear of God.... Means **“don't trifle with God”**.... **“Don't ignore God”** ... Don't treat Him like **a small thing**.

Illus.... Hiking Humboldt with Hannah...

Illus... Confidence in the Bridge yet terrified to get too close to the edge.

Exodus 20:20... The FEAR of GOD extinguishes other fears!!!

Matthew 10:28....

Other things are Not **"BIG DEALS"** in front of **"The Big DEAL!"**

And **When God is SEEN** with the **UTMOST GRAVITY** and **WEIGHT** HE DESERVES..... **WE don't want to Sin!!** *Ex. 20:20 ...*

And **Abraham** shows His **Fear of the Lord**.... By.... **"Not withholding his Son, his only son from God"**....

Is Abraham **afraid** of Losing Isaac..... **ABSOLUTELY!!!**

Is Abraham **afraid** of Life without Isaac? Of being left with Nothing? **YES...**

Is Abraham **afraid** that without Isaac... what will his life mean? **Yes.**

But Abraham is **more AFRAID** of **disobeying God.**

Abraham is **more Afraid** of dishonoring God... of **Sinning against God**... of Losing God's favor.

Isaac is important... vital... indispensable to Abraham's life meaning something...

But **God is MORE IMPORTANT**.... MORE VITAL...

Abraham's HOPE is MORE TIGHTLY TIED **TO GOD**... than **to Isaac**...

What is **YOUR HOPE** in?

What is **YOUR TREASURE?** **Money? Sex? Children? Success? The Praise of men? Recognition? Status? Power?**

We all surely want to say.... NO... none of that... My hope is in the Lord..

But what if that were Tested?

Is there any of that.... That you would **"WITHHOLD" from the LORD?**

Is there anything that you would SAY.... **"NO"...** **Lord..** that is more Important than you.... You cannot have it?

Finally.... God provides.... (vs.13)--

Abraham lifts up his eyes.... **BEHOLD... a ram...**

Abraham sacrifices the ram.... **IN THE PLACE of ISAAC...**

Isaac comes off the Alter... the Ram ... is **HIS substitute...**

Now... **That Ram**... was **not enough to atone for Sin....** **Neither was Isaac**... But that Ram represented something **far greater that was coming...**

Jesus would TAKE OUR PLACE.... Instead of OUR SON on the alter... instead of US on the Alter... Jesus takes our place.

Barabbas goes free and Jesus is Crucified....

John 8:56--- Abraham saw Jesus day and was glad....

What did Abraham see??? God the Father sacrificing His own Son...
The Sinner being taken off the alter and the substitute taking his place?

Or simply... that **God would provide?**

That is what Abraham called the place....

"On the mount of the Lord it SHALL be provided"... "Shall"... future...

The Temple would later be built on Mount Moriah. (**2 Chron.3:1**) ...

And the Lamb of God... Jesus Christ the Son of God... would take the place of sinners by being butchered on the Cross... on a hill near there called Calvary.

You should be able to LOOK at That Father and that Son and say what God said to Abraham in **vs. 12... "Now I know that you love me... seeing you have not withheld your Son, your only Son , from me"**

Romans 8:32....

