

Sacrifice and Stewardship

Genesis 22:1-18

- There is no success without sacrifice.
- If we succeed without sacrifice, then it is because someone who went before us made the sacrifice.
- If you sacrifice and don't see success, then someone who follows will reap success from your sacrifice.

SEVEN OBSERVATIONS ABOUT SACRIFICE:

1. God prepares us for times of struggle and sacrifice (vs.1).

Question: What is the difference between God's testing and Satan's tempting:

- When Satan tempts us, he wants us to fail.
- God tests us to strengthen us; Satan tempts us to destroy.

2. Our love for God needs to be proven (vs.1-2).

- Sacrifice is a visual display of your spiritual growth.

3. Sacrifice is giving up something precious in order to give to something more precious (vs.2-3, 6-10).

- Sacrifice causes us to choose what is **most** important in our life.
- Sacrifice causes us to choose our priorities.
- If you truly sacrifice, you will have a spiritual encounter with God.

4. Sometimes we don't understand the request of sacrifice.

*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.
~ Galatians 2:20*

- This is not a story about the death of Isaac, but the death of Abraham - death to self!

5. Faith can be exercised even when we don't understand (vs.5-10).

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up His only begotten son, of whom it was said, in Isaac shall they seed be called; accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead. ~ Hebrews 11:17-19

6. For the journey to have significance there must be sacrifice (vs.7).

- The degree of sacrifice determines the degree of success.
- The degree of sacrifice determines the degree of spiritual growth.

7. The greater the sacrifice the greater the blessings (vs.11-18).

THREE BLESSINGS THAT RESULT BECAUSE OF SACRIFICE:

1. The blessing of God's timing (vs.11).
2. The blessing of God's approval (vs.12).
3. The blessing of God's provision (vs.14).