

Part 13 – The Sacrifice of a Son

Life of Abraham Series

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, “Abraham:” and he said, “Behold, *here I am.*”

2 And He said, “Take now thy son, thine **only son** Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.”

- I cannot imagine the depth nor the range of emotions that Abraham underwent the moment these words fell from God's lips!
- Abraham, the Father of Faith, the Friend of God, who talked with Him face to face was being tested.
- According to what we read in Hebrews Abraham knew that God would do something through this...but was it in this moment?
- How long did Abraham pause before reacting?
- As I look at this a think to myself...

- “Lord, I do hope I never have to go through something so intense as this kind of a test of faith...but no matter the test,
- I pray You help me to not react until I have done a few things...
 - Remember Who is asking while I consider the character of God.
 - Remember my role. He is Master of my life and all that my life pertains to, isn't He?
 - Remember the Goal. I am here to bring God Glory...nothing else
 - Then, Obey

Genesis 22:3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place afar off.

- Abraham obeyed God.
 - This meant he had to die to his will, his wants, and his way.
 - So, he did.

- After God commanded him to take his son of promise to offer him as a sacrifice,
- he got up the next day and died to all that Abraham was...
- this is the only way to obey.
- Then he stayed dead to all his will, his wants, and his way as he continued the direction God sent him.
- Don't think for one moment that he didn't have to die almost every step.
- He was losing his son and his wife...
 - Just so you know, Sarah wasn't on board with this
 - Many believe they were separated after this.
- Sometimes our obedience to God will cost us more than we can imagine in this life
- but Abraham obeyed anyways
- **This is an example of living the Gospel.**
 - It is only when we live the Gospel that we will have the right fertilization in our lives to bring forth MUCH FRUIT.
 - Abraham was about to witness one of the greatest moments of a resurrected spirit that any human could.
 - In other words, when we die to our flesh

- Then obey God and do what He is asking
- No matter the price it costs us, we stay buried to our flesh
- It is in our obedience that we see Christ resurrected in us!
- As we go through this let's try to put ourselves in this man's frame of mind...

Genesis 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, "Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you."

- Here we see, I believe, his faith in God's power
 - **Hebrews 11:17** By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,
 - 18** Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:
 - 19** Accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead
 - He told his servants that he and Isaac would return

6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

- The Father laid the wood for the sacrifice on the shoulders of his Son...hmmm
 - While we don't see in Scripture that Christ carried His cross, we deduce that He did and struggled because they had to make Simon of Cyrene carry it for Christ
 - If you haven't seen the parallels between Abraham and Isaac being a type of God the Father and God the Son...well

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, "My father": and he said, "Here *am* I, my son." And he said, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?"

- Isaac was aware that something was off
 - He knew his father
 - He knew how to worship in sacrifice

- He had to have witnessed his father's demeanor over the last couple days
- I can't help but wonder how much strength he must have mustered to ask the question he didn't want an answer to

8 And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering": so they went both of them together.

- Here we see Abraham the prophet!
 - His faith knew that this could not be the end for Isaac
 - His faith knew that God had a plan for mankind's sin problem
 - His faith moved him to keep walking in obedience, regardless of what he saw in the now

9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham”: and he said, “Here *am* I.”

12 And he said, “Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

- Imagine the pain and torment of Abraham's heart as he bound his son
 - As he lifted the knife
 - Yet he obeyed
 - Until God told him not to!
 - **The only thing that should ever move us from the path of obedience is God's Word!!!**
- I spoke of the parallels of this story...
 - No one stayed God's hand of judgment from saving His Son's life
 - (Now share the Gospel of Christ's Crucifixion)
- Let's wrap this up looking at Abraham's faith!

Genesis 22:14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-Jireh: as it is said to this day, "In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."

- Abraham lived by faith, not by sight
 - Abraham didn't see God on his trip to Moriah.
 - Abraham didn't see God as he and Isaac carried the fire and wood.
 - Abraham didn't see God as he prepared the altar.
 - Abraham didn't see God as he bound his son.
 - Abraham didn't see God as he raised the knife to offer his son to his God.
 - Abraham didn't see God through all of this.
 - Abraham trusted God's Word.
 - Abraham did see God as the Lord stayed Abraham from killing his son.
 - This is why Abraham could name this place "Jehovah-Jireh"
 - While Abraham didn't see it all
 - **God saw...**
 - **He Sees Everything...**
 - **He sees to Everything.**

- **We will only see what He sees in obedience by faith to His Word.**
 - **If you don't see Jesus as your Savior, God has seen to it! It is up to you to trust His Word**
 - **If you don't see Jesus as your Master, God has seen to it! It is up to you to trust His Word**