

“Abraham and Isaac – A Test of Faith”

Gen. 22:1-19

Open: Story

- **God puts Abraham’s faith to the test. vs. 1-2**
 - It is important to note that God did not force the testing, God came to Abraham and Abraham answered. **vs. 1**
 - God tells Abraham to take his only son, by promise, and to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering. **vs. 2**
- **Abraham does not delay his departure** (obedience). **vs. 3**
 - Abraham did not allow time for human reasoning (doubt) to change his mind.
- Abraham was not only an example of faith but encouraged his family to live by faith as well. **vs. 4-8**
 - Abraham did not allow the doubt to creep in during the journey, he led his family by example. **vs. 4**
 - Abraham was convinced of God’s promise. **vs. 5**
 - Abraham led his son to believe in the promise of God. **vs. 6-8**
- Abraham acted by faith. **vs. 9-10**
 - Abraham acted on his belief, he did not sit back and wait; he worked so that God could bless. **vs. 9**
 - Abraham not only worked hard, but he was willing to do the hard job (finish). **vs. 10**
- God stepped in and provided a substitute sacrifice for his son Isaac. **vs. 11-13**
 - Only when Abraham did all he could do did God step in, and do what He could do. **vs. 11-12**
 - Abraham and Isaac would have missed out on God’s provision if they would have trusted in their personal logic. **vs. 13**
- **Because of Abraham’s increased faith, his family received an increased blessing. vs. 15-18**
 - Double blessing
 - Promise of victory

Tran: App.

- **Recognize that God will test the quality of your faith. James 1:12** *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*
 - Temptation = Tried, tested, proven with fire. **Job 23:10** *“But he knows the way that I take: when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”*
- **Realize that God will not tempt you to do wrong. James 1:13** *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:”*
 - Tempted = A fleshly lust. (See verses 14-17) **Gal. 5:17** *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”*
- **Recognize that God leaves no room for you to use the testing of your faith as an excuse to give into the temptations of your flesh. I Cor. 10:13** *“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*
 - **Heb. 4:15-16** *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

I. Remember that life is a series of tests that require faith.

- **Heb. 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.”*
- a. God is going to test you to see if He can **ble^ss** you.
 - i. **Ps. 24:1-6** *“The earth is the LORD’S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. [2] For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. [3] Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? [4] He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. [5] He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. [6] This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.”*
 - ii. **James 1:12** *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.”*
- b. God is going to test to you see if you will **break** under pressure.
 - i. **Prov. 24:10** *“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.”*
 - ii. **I Peter 1:6-7** *“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: [7] That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”*
- c. God is going to test you to see if He can use you to **build** something. **I Cor. 3:10-15** *“According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. [11] For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; [13] Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. [14] If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*

II. Understand that faith in God is not good intention; it is correct actions.

- **Gen.22:1-3**
- a. Abraham remained testable and usable because he remained available. **vs. 1b** *“...Here I am.”*
- b. You don’t have faith because your saved or go to church; you have faith because you do what God says. **vs. 2**
 - **James 2:21-22,26** *“Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? [22] Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? [26] For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”*
- c. Don’t delay your obedience, this gives time for the devil and your flesh to creep in and cause doubt on your previous decision and Gods ability. **vs. 3**
 - **Ps. 119:60** *“I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.”*

III. Realize that God will always provides a lamb.

- Gen. 22:8 & 13
 - a. Adam & Eve – Forgiveness
 - b. Cain – Second chance
 - c. Abraham – understanding (sight in faith)
 - d. Calvary – Salvation

Close:

- Do not cause doubt in faith, Isaac did not question his father's actions.
 - Parents
 - Peers
 - Potential people of faith
- Do not fold under the pressure of the test of faith: step out in obedience and watch God provide.

Job 23:10

“But he knows the way that I take: when he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold.”

1. What, in Abraham's life did God test? His Faith.
2. What did Abraham not delay? His departure (obedience).
3. What was God able to increase because of Abraham's increased faith? Blessings.
4. Recognize that God leaves no room for you to use the testing of your faith as an ??????? to give into the temptations of your flesh? Excuse.
5. Understand that faith in God is not good intention; it is correct ??????? Actions.