

RETOLD hearing again the bold and true stories TESTAMENT of the first testament

Genesis 22 : The Testing of Abraham

A single act of sacrificial faith of a former pagan named Abraham became the preeminent example for all God-followers to come.

the call:

Genesis 12:1

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you."

the promise:

Genesis 15:5

He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."

Because Abraham understands his test in the context of his call, promise, and blessing, he knows God and passes his test.

the blessing:

Genesis 21:2-3

Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

the test:

Genesis 22:1

Some time later God tested Abraham...

Abraham was AVAILABLE.

(vs.1-2)

Are we open enough for God to get through to us?

Abraham was OBEDIENT.

(vs.3-5)

How readily do we set out to do what God says?

Abraham was HOPEFUL.

(vs.6-8)

Do we believe the best even when things are dark?

Abraham was REWARDED.

(vs.9-18)

Is there anything we won't surrender to God?

James 2:20-23

You foolish person, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless? Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did. And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

The Testing of Abraham

LIFE GROUP STUDY

RELATE

Do you prefer to travel light or to pack for every possible situation? What are the benefits?

What have the following people sacrificed in order to get something important to them?

Peyton Manning Tony Dungy
Tony Hayward (CEO of BP) Your parents

What principle, idea, or verse from this week's sermon was meaningful to you?

READ

Genesis 12:1-3; 22

The account of Abraham is central to a Christian's understanding of what following God looks like. Abraham's faith in God, expressed in the near-sacrifice of his "miracle baby" Isaac, is referred to often in the New Testament. Read Genesis 12-25 for his complete life story.

What did God ask Abram to do at the beginning of their relationship? What all did Abram have to leave? What were the benefits to be?

Did you have to leave anything behind when you first began to follow Jesus? How hard was that to do?

Why was it necessary that God put Abraham to the test of sacrificing Isaac? What necessary tests or sacrifices have been significant in your life?

Did God keep his promises to Abraham? Did Abraham see all of these promises fulfilled?

How has Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son brought blessings to us thousands of years later?

What promises of God are you still waiting patiently to see fulfilled?

How have you seen God bless someone who has sacrificed to follow Him?

What do you take away from the story of Abraham?

How have the sacrifices of others been a blessing to you?

REFLECT

How could a choice you make today that involves sacrificing something dear to you be a blessing to others now and for generations to come?

RESPOND

Abraham was "blessed to be a blessing." What is God asking you to sacrifice this week for the people in your life? In the world? What next step do you need to take this week to follow where God is leading you? Write down some of the sacrifices that may be necessary.

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