

The Sacrifice of Isaac

February 24, 2019

Today's Passage: Genesis 22

God tests our faith _____.

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How can we get _____?

Fill-ins: repeatedly, maximally, for us, faith like Abraham

Life Group Questions for the week of February 24, 2019

- 1. What impacted you from the sermon?**
- 2. What does this passage say about God?**
- 3. What does it say about people?**
- 4. Why does the Lord say "Your son, your only son, that you love" to Abraham when asking him to sacrifice Isaac?**
- 5. Is there anything in this passage you should seek to emulate in your life?**
- 6. Are there any behaviors or attitudes described in the passage we should seek to avoid?**
- 7. With whom do you identify most in this passage?**
- 8. How was Abraham able to endure this test?**
- 9. What similarities do you see in this passage between Isaac and Jesus?**
- 10. Who will you share the truths of this passage with this week?**
- 11. How can you step up into greater faith?**

Faith Is Tested

Genesis 22:1-2 After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ²He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

- The reader is told upfront that this is a test for Abraham.
- We get clues as to the difficulty of this test through the language “your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love”.

Aside from the obvious difficulty of killing one’s own son, this test is also difficult because it seems to pit two aspects of God against himself. Namely, there seems to be tension between the spoken word of promise and blessing through Isaac, against the command of God to kill the Isaac. So, we have the command of God seemingly in opposition to the promises of God.

How would Abraham have reconciled this dilemma?

Hebrews 11 Sheds Some Light

Hebrews 11:17-20 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

The Context of Abraham’s Test

- Abraham is able to endure and succeed in this test because of prior testing.
- This test is the final test (of ten tests) Abraham has to go through and is the pinnacle of the Abrahamic storyline.

The other tests Abraham went through:

- Leaving Ur (Gen. 12)
- Returning to Canaan after Egyptian sojourn (Gen. 12-13)
- Abraham and Lot separate (Gen. 13)
- Abraham rescues Lot, but won’t take plunder (Gen. 15)
- The life of Ishmael threatened (Gen. 16)
- Circumcision (Gen.17)
- Abraham pleads for Lot’s life (Gen.18-19)
- Abimelech (Gen. 20-21)
- Departure of Ishmael (Gen. 21)
- The sacrifice of Isaac (Gen. 22)

How did Abraham respond to these tests? Did he pass every one with flying colors?

How do you respond to tests of faith in your life? Do you see a pattern of testing?

For Additional Study:

Kidner, Derek. *Genesis: An Introduction and Commentary*
Kierkegaard, Soren. *Fear and Trembling*
Moreland, J.P. *Kingdom Triangle*
Ross, Allen P. *Creation and Blessing*