

## #6 - Abraham and Isaac - Genesis 22:1-19

### Engage:

- In the last story we saw Abram (now Abraham) being introduced to God's Redemption Story. Abraham's story began with a test and continued with other tests until he got to the supreme test in this story. In the process, he passed some and failed others. Here some examples:

Tests that were passed:

- Genesis 11:27-12:5 - He left his homeland and traveled to a new land.
- Genesis 13:5-18 - He allowed Lot to live in the "best" area when they separated.
- Genesis 14:1-16 - He depended on God to provide a victory over the kings and a successful rescue of Lot.
- Genesis 14:17-24 - He did not take advantage of hoarding the wealth of Sodom.
- Genesis 21:14-21 - He showed proper respect for Ishmael when he was "forced" to leave.

Tests that were failed:

- Genesis 12:10-13:4 - He failed to stay in the land where God had led him when there was a famine. Instead, he went to Egypt.
- Genesis 16 - Both Abram and Sarai failed to wait for God to provide the promised child when he had a child with Hagar.

- Note: True faith will always be tested. It is through testing that we find how strong our faith really is. Therefore, tests of faith present opportunities to grow and experience victory as followers of Jesus. See James 1:2-4.

### Thoughts About The Story:

- 22:1-2 – "Some time later God tested Abraham" - It is no accident that the offering of Isaac, begins with these words. The faith-stretching experiences of chapters 11-21 was God's way of preparing Abraham for the supreme test – to offer the long awaited, "miracle" son Isaac as a sacrifice. Surely, Abraham had to wonder how God would fulfill the promises made when he was called (12:1-3).

Note: The region of Moriah was later the location for the temple in Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 3:1).

Point - Are you learning lessons today that will help you handle the tests God has for you tomorrow? Ask God to make you teachable in today's tests so you'll be prepared for tomorrow's big ones (tests). *Daily Walk*

Note: The supreme test was the willingness to offer Isaac. Therefore, "Isaacs" can come in many shapes and sizes. The loss of a job; the loss of a mate; a financial disaster, a shattered romance. Each can give the impression that life is "out of control," when in fact God is still there, using each circumstance to deepen your faith and strengthen your walk with Him—if you'll let Him. *Daily Walk*

- 22:3-5 – “Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible.”

- 22:6-14 – Depend on God to provide when He calls you to do a job. Abraham did. See 22:8 and 22:14 (“*Jehovah-jireh*” = the Lord will see to it or provide; the Lord will be seen. He believed Isaac would be raised from the dead (Hebrews 11:19). Abraham was depending on the promise God had first given him (Genesis 12:1-3), not on how he felt about what God had told him to do. Nor did he rely on the advice of anyone else. He simply depended on God to keep His promise and provide. This is a key concept (“*Jehovah-jireh*”) of this passage for us to apply to our life.

Note: Isaac is presented as a “type” of who Jesus would become. The ultimate provision of God is the Lamb of God, Jesus (John 1:29, 36).

Note: It has been often said: “When God’s work is done in God’s way, it will not lack God’s support” (Hudson Taylor - pioneer missionary to Burma). Point: God is not obligated to support our ideas or pet projects, but He will support His work when it is done in His way.

Note: One of the many aspects of worship includes the willingness to accept and praise God for the sacrifice offered in our behalf.

Thought: We can easily waste the opportunity God allows us to have in suffering to be a witness to those who are watching us go through the fire.

- 22:15-19 – After passing the supreme test, God reassured Abraham of the promises He made (13:16; 15:5). Abraham is commended for his commitment to being obedient to God. Such obedience parallels the love God has demonstrated for us through Jesus (John 3:16; Romans 8:32) - except He allowed Jesus to be sacrificed.

Note: The famous 19<sup>th</sup> century British preacher Charles Spurgeon used to say that the promises of God never shine brighter than in the furnace of affliction.

## **Summary:**

- Never forget – Satan tempts us to bring out the worst in us, but God tests us to help bring out the best.

- True worship includes:

- Faith that obeys completely God’s word.
- Faith that holds nothing back – gives the very best to God.
- Faith that waits for God to provide, but knows that God will not provide without personal sacrifice. Therefore faith is costly.