



HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

March 22, 2020

Main Point: God Calls His People to Trust Him Completely

1. Listen to this Spotify playlist

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?_php=1

2. Read this passage two times - Genesis 22:1-6,7-14

3. Process

In Abraham's one-hundredth year, he and Sarah finally had a son, and they named him Isaac (Gen. 21:1-7). Twenty-five years after God first promised He would make Abraham into a great nation, the son of promise was finally born. Maybe it wasn't fulfilled in the timing Abraham and Sarah had expected, but God made good on His promise. Everything was finally as it should have been. But several years later, God came to Abraham again. However, this time, His message was different. There was no reminder of His promises to provide and protect. Instead, He issued a command for Abraham. God was about to put the patriarch to the test.

Look at again at **22:1**. God does not test to lead people toward failure; He tests to give His people the opportunity to prove the quality of their faith. God's intention is to test us—to place affliction in our lives—because these afflictions produce endurance, which produces character, and which produces hope (Rom. 5:3-4). It is difficult to see in the moment, but God's tests are for our good. They grow us, strengthen us, and give us the confidence we need to persevere through future difficulties. But here's something else we need to understand about God's tests. There is only One person who knows when He is testing us, and His name was not Abraham. God's tests are not easy; what grows us rarely is. Not knowing what God is doing only adds to that difficulty. God's tests can leave us confused, distressed, and heartbroken. But it is in these moments of weakness that the strength God gives us shines through.

22:4. We know that the mountain God chose was not random. Moriah was the region near where Jerusalem would later be built. It's also possible that the temple itself would later be built on this mountaintop. But there may have been another reason. While each step of that forty-five-mile journey may have been painful, each may have been gracious as well. This journey may have been a gift to Abraham; the opportunity for the patriarch to wrestle with God's command, and perhaps to develop the faith he would need as he raised a knife over his beloved son.



22:5. When Abraham and Isaac parted ways with the two servants, the patriarch told them, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we’ll come back to you” (Gen. 22:5). While no explanation of his statement is given in that chapter, the writer of Hebrews offered an extended commentary on this piece of Scripture to help us understand what was going on in Abraham’s mind and heart (Heb. 11:17-19). Why was Abraham able to tell the two servants that he and his son would return? Why was he able to tie his only son, his beloved son, and lay him on top of the altar? Why was he able to lift a knife, ready to spill Isaac’s blood? What made such surrender to God possible was Abraham’s faith that He can do the impossible; Abraham believed God could raise his son from the dead. Isaac was the son of promise, the next in a single line leading to the one God promised in Eden (Gen. 3:15). Abraham believed this. And yet God was calling on him to sacrifice Isaac.

The only way Abraham could reconcile God’s command was to believe that God would raise Isaac from the dead. What we need to see here is the depth of Abraham’s faith. He was ready to follow through with the sacrifice of Isaac. He didn’t know it was a test; He was seeking to be obedient to the Lord. His obedience was made easier because He believed God could do the impossible and raise his son from the dead. God stopped Abraham before he could plunge the knife in his son, sparing his life. But in a sense Isaac did die and was resurrected. That is what the writer of Hebrews needs us to see as he wrapped up this account in the “hall of faith.” Abraham received Isaac back, “figuratively speaking” (Heb. 11:19). Abraham believed God could do the impossible and when He did, the patriarch received what God had provided. He did not sigh with relief thinking he had dodged a bullet. He understood that Isaac was indeed given back to him from the dead. Surely Abraham never looked at his son the same way again after that day.

4. Think About

- What are some ways we can demonstrate the love we have for God and others?
- When have you sensed God testing you? What did you learn about Him from that experience? What did you learn about yourself?
- Why do you think God would test someone with what they love the most?
- Like Abraham, we may not know when we are being tested. In what ways should Abraham’s story affect our obedience?

Join Lauren & Nathan in a Zoom Call!

Sunday, March 22 at 7:00 pm
<https://zoom.us/j/582851287>
Meeting ID: 582 851 287



We are here for you!

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