

God Provides a Lamb

Genesis 22:1-19 After these things God **tested** Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “**Here** I am.” ² He 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.” ³ So Abraham **rose** early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he **cut** the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and **worship** and come **again** to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the **wood** of the burnt offering and **laid** it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the **fire** and the **knife**. So they went both of them **together**. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “**My father!**” And he said, “**Here** I am, my **son.**” He said, “**Behold**, the fire and the wood, but **where** is the **lamb** for a burnt **offering?**” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will **provide** for **himself** the **lamb** for a burnt **offering**, my son.” So they went both of them **together**. ⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham **built** the **altar** there and laid the wood in order and **bound** Isaac his son and **laid** him on the altar, on **top** of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his **hand** and took the **knife** to **slaughter** his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord **called** to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “**Here I am.**” ¹² He said, “**Do not** lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I **know** that you fear God, seeing you have not **withheld** your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “**The Lord will provide**”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.” ¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

❖ Recap

- **The Polemic**
- **The Truth of Genesis**
 - The Beginning to Abraham and The life of Abraham
- **What has happened since we last saw Abraham**
 - **Sodom and Gomorrah**
 - **Abraham and Abimelech – Abraham did it again... Sarah said she was his sister**
 - This account likely happened well before it is placed in the scripture...
 - Probably as far back as chapter 16 or so chronologically
 - **The Birth of Isaac**
 - The long awaited promised son had been given to Abraham and Sarah...
 - Abraham was 100 years old!
 - God had promised Abraham 25 years prior that he would be given a child
 - And Abraham and Sarah had waited... although impatiently
 - And in one instance Abraham had a child with the servant of Sarah...
 - And this was them trying to help God with His plan...
 - And this led to much heartache... Because
 - **The Sending away of Ishmael**
 - **Sarah told Abraham she wanted Hagar and Ishmael gone...**
 - ◆ But he did not want to do that because he loved his son Ishmael..

- **But God told Abraham that he must do this...**
 - ◆ Ill be honest... this does not sit well with me at all...
 - ◆ I have struggled with this...
 - ◆ I have said... A father must look after his son...
 - ◆ But then I realize... God was Ishmael's Father...
 - ◆ And He would look after Ishmael... and we see that is exactly what God did...
 - ◆ And God blessed him and provided for him...
- **But God had a great plan in place for the people of this world...**
 - ◆ Although Abraham tried to mess things up... God corrected them...
 - ◆ So Abraham sends his son from the slave woman away...
- **Abraham is then left with one Son**
 - And this will be very significant for what is happening in the text today...
 - Because for a moment in time... Abraham's life is to be an example to the World
 - He is to be a picture of God the Father and His Only Son Jesus...

❖ Introduction

- This is a Test for Abraham
- **God had been testing and preparing and sanctifying Abraham for years...**
 - Preparing him for this great test of Faith
 - Which would mean so much to the world...
- **This is also a Prophetic Testing**
 - Meaning... this event is telling the future...
 - We see in this event what God would one day accomplish in the world

❖ 1) Abraham was Fully Obedient to God (Only 2 Points Today)

- **Look at the text... What is Abraham ordered to do?**
 - **After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He 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."**
 - **Abraham and Sarah had waited 25 years for this son God had promised them... 25 years!**
 - **He also sent out his other son Ishmael... who was as the scriptures say...**
 - A child of the flesh...
 - Born out of the commanded will of God...
 - Although nothing ever happens outside of the Sovereign will of God
 - **And here we see the delight Abraham had in Isaac...**
 - **God says take your only son Isaac... whom you love...**
- **What does Abraham do?**
 - **So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.**
 - There is no mention of Abraham breathing **one syllable** of anything in objection...
 - **There was no mention of bowing before God and praying... please Lord... is there another way?**
 - As He did for Sodom
 - **There was no plan with Sarah like they had with hagar and Ishmael**
 - **There was no protecting Isaiah like Abraham protected himself by saying Sarah was his sister...**
 - Nothing...
 - **The text simply says: Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey and took his Son..**
 - **Now... this is not to say that Abraham did not at least object...**

- But the writer only wants us to see that Abraham was obedient...
- He was fully obedient to do the hardest thing that could ever be asked of a person...
- To Sacrifice their child...

▪ **Is there anything harder than this?**

- **God...** do you want me to leave my family and serve you in a country that hates Christians...
 - ◆ Yes... I will go...
- **God...** do you want me to sell all that I have and hit the road telling people about Jesus
 - ◆ Yes... I will go...
- **God...** do you want me to lay down my own life? To be burned by the fire?
 - ◆ To be tortured until I die...
 - ◆ Yes I will go...
- **I will go do all of these things with a glad and cheerful heart...**
 - ◆ Before I offer up my child to be sacrificed
 - ◆ I would do anything before this... Anything!

▪ **But... this was the command... And Abraham obeyed...**

- **Hebrews 11:17-19** 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, ¹⁸ of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ¹⁹ He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

➤ **Are we obedient? Are we people of Faith?**

- I ask this because it does not seem to me that many in the American Church are people of Faith...
- We claim to have faith, but we do so little for God...
- **Jesus left us a command...**
 - **Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to obey all I have commanded...**
 - ◆ But for many in the church they have yet to make even one disciple...
 - **Making a disciple is hard work...**
 - ◆ You have to take the gospel to a person who is not yet a follower of Jesus
 - ◆ You must share it with him... and he must respond in faith...
 - ◆ Then you must take the time to teach him what God has commanded...
 - **Now... thankfully... we can do this as a group... we can tackle this together...**
 - ◆ The church exists in community together to accomplish this goal
 - ◆ We are to be evangelistic together...
 - ◆ We are to train people in the ways of Jesus together...
 - **There is a great example of this in the book of Acts...**
 - ◆ Some unnamed men had witnessed to the people in Antioch...
 - ◆ And they had become Christians... and this was told to the disciples
 - ◆ So they sent Barnabas to go and teach them
 - ◆ But the work was too big for Barnabas... so he went and got Saul...
 - ◆ And they worked on these people for a year...
 - ◆ And it was here that the believers were first called Christians...
 - **Barnabas and Saul invested in the lives of these believers...**
 - ◆ Are you investing in the lives of others?
- **Let's apply this here at Trinity...**
 - We need to make sure we are **going out** to reach people... obedience to the command
 - We must make sure we are **sharing the gospel** with them...
 - We must make sure we are **baptizing** them...

- We must make sure we are **teaching** them the commands of God...
- **If our Sunday School Classes are not growing with new believers...**
 - Or our Discipleship groups are not finding people to Disciple...
 - We are stagnant and not being obedient...
 - **Remember.... New Believers... not Christians who have come back...**
 - ◆ That is awesome but not the same thing...
- **This is why we as a church have started the wheels turning with Disciple Makers**
 - They have already begun preparing for this... And will officially begin meeting
 - In the middle of August... Disciple Makers that are Making Disciple who will make Disciples
- **These are areas that I see we must grow in... Evangelism and Disciple Making...**
- **But let me be so bold as to say this:**
 - For this church to be the church God wants us to be...
 - Many of you that are on the sideline right now... are going to have to get off the bench...
 - There are no sidelines on the team that works for God...
 - You are either playing the game hard... Or practicing to play the game hard...
 - **We need You! And we want you involved... if something is hindering this... tell me...**
 - Let's work on it... together...
- **The time is now church... The Time is now...**
 - **The Holy Spirit of God is moving in our Church...** (We are not praying for enough Kingdom things)
 - He is saying... get on your knees and pray!
 - Learn to pray deep spiritual prayers... Pray for great things to be done in the kingdom...
 - **The Holy Spirit is saying live Holy Lives...** teach your Children the ways of God...
 - Live them Out...
 - **The Holy Spirit is saying...** be good stewards of what God has given you
 - **The Holy Spirit is saying go** out and find unbelievers and give them the gospel
 - **The Holy Spirit is saying serve** others without complaining...
 - without groaning... without growing weary
 - **The Holy Spirit is saying... Make disciples... Plant Churches where you are**
 - Plant churches in the uttermost parts of the earth...
 - **The time is now... God is moving now...**
 - How is God stirring you? Don't ignore it!
 - **Abraham was obedient to God... He was not without His flaws...**
 - **But He trusted God and God did amazing things...**
- **Abraham's obedience brought blessing to many people... so will ours...**
 - When we are faithful to follow God's commands... he is faithful to bring a harvest
 - We are told... Do not quench the Holy Spirit of God...
 - When we snuff His voice out in our lives... It becomes harder for us to hear...
- **Also... do not delay...**
 - From my reading of the scripture I find out... God always gets His way...
 - **Better to obey now... than to receive many bumps before God gets you where He wants you**

❖ 2) Jesus is the Real Story Here

- **This event points forward to what God would do in His Son Jesus**
 - Thousands of years later on Calvary
- **God wrote this so that the people of Israel and the world would know...**
 - When Jesus came to die... It was God's plan all along...
 - He was giving proof to all those people that Jesus really was the Savior of Israel
 - If they would have just looked a little closer into their Bibles they would have seen it

- If even today they would look a little closer in their Old Testament...
- They would see that God foreshadowed the events of the cross
- **1 God had told Adam and Eve that one day a seed of Eve would crush the head of the serpent**
- **2 God had told Abraham that through his seed all nations of the world would be blessed**
 - And he God goes further with Abraham... He uses Abraham to tell a story to future generations...
 - He foreshadows the way in which the future seed of Abraham would bless all nations...
- **3 God did not just tell Abraham that through him all nations would be blessed**
 - He would take this event and use it to show HOW the world would be blessed...
 - Abraham likely did not see it then... And many people missed it...
 - But it could not be clearer could it?
 - Notice the similarities between Abraham's Event and the Death of Jesus
- **4 Abraham is told to offer up his only Son...**
 - Now that Ishmael has been made to leave... Abraham is left with one Son of the promise
 - God offers up His only Son in Jesus
- **5 Abraham's Son was born with divine intervention...**
 - When it was impossible for Abraham and Sarah to have children
 - Jesus is born to Mary without her having been with a man
- **6 Abraham is told to go to the land of Moriah...**
 - Later Solomon would build the temple on Mt Moriah...
- **6 Abraham is told that He would offer up His son on one of the Mountains there**
 - And these mountains were more like hills... the hills around Jerusalem
- **6 We see clearly this is the area where the temple would one day be built...**
 - So God sends Abraham to one of those hills or mounts...
- **6 And we do not know which one... but there were many...**
 - But I do not think the correlation is an accident...
 - For Jesus Himself was offered up on the Hill of Calvary...
 - Or as we would say the Hill called Golgatha... the place of the skull...
- **6 And although we do not know the exact hill Abraham offered Isaac on...**
 - We do know it was in the exact same area... Land of Moriah
 - This is not an accident... It is God foreshadowing...
- **7 Abraham is to offer up his son as a burnt offering...**
 - This was the same case for Jesus... His offering was occurring at the same time
 - As the burnt offerings for Passover when lambs would be killed to cover sins
- **8 Abraham places the wood on the back of his Son Isaac**
 - Jesus bears the wood on his own back in the cross...
- **9 Abraham the Father carries the fire and the knife**
 - **Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer, and though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering...**
 - **Abraham the father is going to carry out the sacrifice**
 - God would carry out the sacrifice of His Son
- **10 Isaac willing laid down his life...**
 - Although it does not say this... it seems it must have been so
 - Isaac was not a little boy at this time...
 - He carried the wood for the offering... which was significant to carry...
 - It seems He must have allowed his father to bind him as the offering...
- **11 Isaac asked the question...**
 - **⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.**

- Notice two things here...
 - 1) They both went together... just like the father went with the Son to the cross (prayer)
 - 2) Abraham says... **“God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.”**
 - ◆ This language is significant... We see Abraham saying God will provide the lamb...
 - ◆ And we see that later when Jesus comes...
 - ◆ God does indeed provide the lamb...
 - ◆ And of greater significance... He provides Himself as the lamb...
 - ◆ **When John The Baptist sees Jesus...**
 - He says: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world
- **12 Then comes time for the Sacrifice:**
 - **¹⁰Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.**
 - Abraham was ready to do as God had commanded...
 - **But then God stops him...**
 - **¹¹But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”**
 - **But... when the Only Son of God was on the cross...**
 - And the father was responsible for Him being there...
 - And when the divine hand was raised over the Son to slay Him...
 - No one stopped His hand... No one said... Don’t harm the boy...
 - **God the Father crushed the Son...**
 - Because in so doing... All the nations of the world would be blessed...
 - Sins could now be washed away... Because the Son was willing to lay down His life
 - So that many could be saved...
- **13 After God stopped Abraham... Abraham looked in the thorns...**
 - And there was a ram caught there... In the thorns...
 - likely the same kind as Jesus would have on His head... This ram would be a substitute for Isaac...
 - In the same way this ram foreshadowed Jesus...
 - It was offered in place of Isaac just like Jesus was offered in place of you and me...
- **14 God provided the lamb for sacrifice then for Abraham and Isaac...**
 - He provided the lamb that day 2000 years ago on the cross... 2000 years from Abraham to Jesus
 - **¹⁴So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”**
 - **Was it not provided? On the Mount?**
- **The Death of Jesus was written for the world to know that God loves them...**
 - That they may know God has provided a way for their sins to be forgiven...
 - And it has all come together like a well written symphony...
- **In the book of Revelation...**
 - **Revelation 5:6,9 ⁶And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain,... Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,**

❖ Invitation

- Have You trusted in the death of Jesus for the forgiveness of Your sins?
- Have you given your life to Jesus to be used as He calls you?
- How is your faith... your obedience today?