

Sermon Discussion – 27 August 2023

Read Genesis 22:1-18

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

There are times when we realise we have built our lives around people and things we enjoy, and sometimes God calls us to let go of those things.

Can you share a time when you felt like God was asking you to let go of something you valued? How did you respond?

Observation *Discovering the context*

Take a few moments and try to enter into the mind of Abraham after receiving the command from God to sacrifice Isaac.

- What is he thinking about?
- How might he have wrestled with God in prayer after receiving this command?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. The sermon distinguishes between God's purpose in testing and Satan's purpose in testing. How do you differentiate between trials that come from God for our growth and those that come from negative forces to weaken us?
2. Abraham's faith is highlighted as he believed God could raise Isaac from the dead, even before the concept of resurrection was fully understood. How can Abraham's faith inspire us to trust God in difficult and seemingly impossible situations?
3. Discuss the significance of Abraham's willingness to offer Isaac and how it reflects his commitment to obey God fully. Are there areas in your life where you struggle to offer full obedience? How can you work toward a greater level of surrender?
4. The provision of the ram caught in the bushes is seen as a symbol of God providing a substitute sacrifice. How does this story point forward to the ultimate provision of Jesus as our substitute sacrifice? How does Jesus' sacrifice impact your understanding of God's provision?
5. The sermon closes with the idea that the process of being shaped through testing is designed to reshape us, not ruin us. How can this perspective shift our attitude toward challenges and trials we face? How can we encourage each other to embrace the reshaping process?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- Obedience often brings assurance of God's promises. Can you share a personal experience where obeying God led to a deeper sense of His presence and assurance in your life?

- Try memorising Genesis 22:8...
“Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.”

- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?