

"The Sacrifice of Faith"
(The Life of Abraham –The Later Years)
Hebrews 11:17-19
Jan. 29, 2012

True faith can pass God's Tests.

1. Abraham believed God's promise...and saw obedience as his only option.

"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." (Heb. 11:17)

2. Abraham believed God's promise...and saw his son as God's fulfillment.

"...of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." (Heb. 11:18)

3. Abraham believed God's promise...and saw God's power over death.

"He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back." (Heb. 11:19)

Application:

1. What kind of tests has your faith been going through lately? What promises from God can be trusted right now in your life?
2. What difficult steps of obedience do you need to do this week? As we deal with death, how does this story encourage you?

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion

“The Sacrifice of Faith”

Heb. 11:17-19 (Jan. 29, 2012)

1. Share your feelings about “tests.” Did you get stressed out? Were you afraid? Did you cram and stay up all night? Were you confident? Why?
2. According to Heb. 11:17 and Gen. 22:1, what does God do with Abraham? What is the difference between God testing and Satan tempting? (Also James 1:13-15)
3. What did God ask Abraham to do? (Gen. 22:1-2) What is his response? (Gen. 22:3-4) What do you think would have been your response? What part does “sacrifice” play in the Christian life? (Matt. 16:24; 10:37; Phil. 3:8) Read Gen. 22:9-10 and discuss the possible thoughts/ emotions of Abraham and his son Isaac.
4. Discuss the contrast between Abraham giving his son and God the Father giving His Son.

Abraham/Isaac

His only son.
His “loved” son.
Offered as a sacrifice.
An act of worship/surrender
Isaac carried the wood.
Bound.
“Where is the lamb?
Laid him on the altar –submitted to it.
Both went together.
Saw his father raise the knife.
Specific place on Mt. Moriah (outside Jerusalem).
A substitute was provided!
Abraham believed in a possible resurrection.

God the Father/Jesus

His only Son. (Jn. 3:16)
His loved Son. (Mt. 3:17)
Offered as a Sacrifice. (Heb. 9:14)
An act of Surrender. (Mt. 26:39)
Jesus was to carry His cross.(Lk. 23:26)
Bound. (Mt. 27:2)
“There is the Lamb of God!”(Jn. 1:29)
Laid on the cross –submitted. (Jn. 10:11)
Unity with His Father. (Jn. 10:30)
Saw His Father forsake Him. (Mt. 27:46)
Mt. Calvary (outside Jerusalem)(Mt. 27:33)
Jesus is our substitute. (2 Cor. 5:21)
Jesus rose from the dead! (Mt. 28:6)

5. Abraham was fully convinced that God would keep His promises. (Rom. 4:21; Heb. 11:19) How does the Bible describe “doubt?” (James 1:6) What does doubt look like in your life?
6. Abraham had to “lay him on the altar.” What aspects of your life do you need to lay on the altar? What does this mean? (Rom. 12:1-2) When we don’t understand what God is doing, what do we need to remember? (Isa. 55:8-9)
7. What does Abraham say in Gen. 22:5 that proves his faith? Discuss the relief when the ram was seen in the thicket. (Gen. 22:13) Share times when the Lord has provided just in the nick of time. What does Abraham call the place? (Gen. 22:14) Pray for one another to have the faith of Abraham and to surrender every part of our lives to Him.