Genesis 22 Abraham and Isaac

How far would you go for God?

How much would you be willing to sacrifice to get there?

Do you think it would be worth it?

Highlights

God tested Abraham

Told Abraham to straight up sacrifice his son

He didn’t hesitate, grabbed some help, a donkey, some wood and his son

Traveled 3 days

Made Isaac carry the wood (neat parallel of Jesus carrying our sins)

Isaac had questions, like where’s the lamb?

Abraham built the alter

Tied up Isaac and placed him on top of the wood for the burnt offering

When he pulled out the knife the angel of the Lord called out told Abraham not to do anything, don’t touch the boy

Since he was willing to give all for God, he was rewarded

Ram stuck in the thicket, sacrificed it instead

Abraham’s faith would be rewarded

Quick points

**God will test us**. Testing things is how we prove how much it can handle. The fastest I ever got on a motorcycle, 88 the first time, then 93 and I wimped out. The bike was smooth as silk, I lost my nerve. Why wouldn’t God test us? To see how strong our faith is? He tested Abraham, Job, allowed Jesus to be tempted in the wilderness. It’s important to understand our place. I do a drill in basketball called the line. You line up in the order where you think your skills put you. It forces you to honestly evaluate your skill level. And then we test it. 1v1 all the way up the line. Some get humbled, some surprise themselves. Don’t shy away from test.

***James 1:2-4***

***James 1:12***

***Provers 17:3***

**Trust God**, it’s not always easy to take a step of faith. Think back to ***Matthew 14:22-31*** Jesus was walking to his disciples that were out on a boat. When they first saw him, they thought he was a ghost, but after He said it was him, Jesus, Peter said “Lord if its you, tell me to come to you on the water” The first step he was confident but then he started to waiver as the waves came in and wind blew. Peter started to sink. Then Jesus reached out and saved him. You’ll find this is true in a lot of aspects of life. Everything is fun when it’s new. Like new friendships, new puppies, new jobs, new hobbies. But when you’re taking that puppy out at 2 in the morning and step in something warm, the newness wears off very quickly. Y’all seen it with taking over Sunday night services. We were really excited then, a couple months in and the excitement wears off and it became a chore or when people first get baptized, they’re on fire for God, but then services turn into something else we gotta do. We get burnt out. That’s when we need to trust God, that he’ll still catch us when we sink, that he has a plan.

***Proverbs 3:5-6***

**Be rewarded.** Sometimes it’s hard to step out on faith, or start a new adventure. It’s hard to understand why we’re doing it. As we get further into the journey it’s easy to get discouraged. Especially as Christians. ***Matthew 7:13*** reminds us that wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction. Our journey as Christians isn’t easy. It isn’t meant to be. Things that come easy are rarely worth it. But we’re not working for an earthly reward, we’re working for a greater prize. On that isn’t destroyed by moth or rust, it’s an eternity with God, and a mansion over the hill top.

***Matthew 6:19-24***