

“Are You Completely Sold Out To God?”

Genesis 22:1-19

Message by Michael J. Barnard

May 22, 2022

Teaching Aim: To examine how Abraham responded to an unexpected and painful test from God. To realize God already knew how Abraham would respond, but Abraham needed to recognize the total commitment necessary to truly follow God; nothing could be more important in his life. To challenge every follower of Jesus Christ to be completely sold out to God, using thier lives and spiritual gifts to reach others with the gospel of Jesus Christ and to train people to serve Him!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: God test to see how much Abraham loves Him (Gen. 22:1-10)

1. Abraham had waited 25 years for the birth of Isaac after God promised him a son. Since that time, Abraham had the pleasure of watching his son grow and become the son that he had always desired. What unexpected test did God bring to Abraham in **verse 2**? What additional information can we learn about this request from **verse 1**? Where is Mount Moriah located today?

2. What can we learn about Abraham’s character and love for the LORD in **verse 2**? Do you think Abraham loved his son any less than he did the day before? How would you have responded in this situation? Why do you think Abraham cut the wood for the offering himself and saddled his own donkey instead of having his servants do these menial tasks (**vs. 3**)? Do you get fidgety when nervous? Do you keep yourself busy?

3. How many days did it take for him to travel from Beersheba (**vs. 19**) north to Mount Moriah (**vs. 4**)? Did Abraham take his servants all the way with him (**vs. 5**)? If not, why not? According to **verse 6**, what was Abraham’s plan? Did Abraham say, *“I will come back to you”*, or *“we will come back to you?”* Why is this important? According to **Heb. 11:17-19**, what was Abraham’s reasoning behind his willingness to sacrifice his son to God?

4. What can we learn about Isaac’s age from the chore his father gave him in **verse 6**? What was Isaac carrying? What other Son carried His own wood as He prepared to be offered as a sacrifice for sin? (See **Mark 15:15-22**) What two items did Abraham bring with him (**vs. 6b**)? How would you feel if you were in Abraham’s shoes?

5. According to **verse 7**, what was going through Isaac's mind? What kind of animal was he looking for? Abraham knew what he was supposed to do. What can we learn about his character and faith in God from **verse 8**? According to **verse 8b**, was young Isaac satisfied with the answer?

6. Mount Moriah is believed to be the mountain in Jerusalem where the temple mount sits today. What is the first thing Abraham did upon arriving at Mount Moriah (**vs. 9**)? Note: Many believe the rock located inside Islam's Dome of the Rock on the temple mount is the very rock that Abraham prepared to offer Isaac on. What did Abraham do in **verse 9b**? How do you think Isaac reacted? Did he cooperate or fight back?

7. What do we find Abraham preparing to do in **verse 10**? What can we learn about Abraham's love for God from this verse?

Part II: God provides a substitute for Abraham pointing to the ultimate sacrifice for sin—Jesus Christ! (Gen. 22:11-19)

1. How did the Angel of the LORD respond to Abraham as readied himself to sacrifice the boy (**vs. 11**)? Why? How would you have responded to the Angel's words if you were in Abraham's shoes?

2. According to **verse 12**, what was the purpose of this test? Who was the one who really needed to see whether Abraham was totally committed to God or not? Are you completely committed to God or are you holding back in your service and devotion to Him?

3. What kind of animal did God supernaturally provide for the sacrifice as a substitute for Isaac (**vs. 13**)? Was this "*the lamb*" that Abraham had promised in **verse 8**? When would the "*the Lamb*" appear? (See **John 1:29b**)

4. What did Abraham name this region in remembrance of God's provision (**vs. 14**)

5. According to **verses 15-18**, what did the Angel of the LORD promise Abraham? Why? Are you faithful in fulfilling the mission God has called you to? If not, what is holding you back?

6. What can we learn about Abraham's love for God from the story in **Genesis 22**? How does this event in Abraham's life relate to your own life today?

Part III: How much do you really love God?

1. In what areas of ministry are you currently serving? If you are not currently serving in ministry, what is preventing you from using your spiritual gifts for God's glory?

2. What two objectives did Jesus give to His disciples and every believer in the Great Commission? (See **Matt. 28:18-20**) As we can see, every believer is called to evangelize and to disciple. Are you? What are you doing to fulfill the Great Commission?

3. According to the CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship) statistics below, what is the most effective age group to evangelize? Why do you think churches don't place more of an emphasis on Children's and Youth ministry? According to these statistics, what are the most fruitful age groups to minister to in any church?

Child Evangelism Fellowship statistics stating the ages people come to Christ:

- * From 0-4 years old = 1%
- * From 4-14 years old = 85%
- * From 15-30 years old = 10%
- * From 30 on = 4%

4. What alarming trend do you see in the statistics below from Thom. S. Rainer's book *"The Bridger Generation?"* What are some steps we can take to turn the tide?
- * Builders (born 1927-1945): 65% Bible-based believers
 - * Boomers (born 1946-1964): 35% Bible-based believers
 - * Busters (born 1965-1983): 16% Bible-based believers
 - * Bridgers (or Millennials, born 1984 or later): 4% Bible-based believers
5. A recent survey from George Barna and the Cultural Research Center found that only 37% of all Christian Pastors possess a Biblical Worldview; 41% of Senior/Lead Pastors; 28 Associate/Assistant Pastors; 13% of Teaching Pastors; 12% of Children/Youth Pastors; and 4% of Executive Pastors. This is an alarming trend. What does this mean for the future of the church in America? How careful should churches be in choosing their pastoral staff members? What is a *"must"* requirement for any member of the church staff?
6. How sold out are you to God? Are you willing to sacrifice a few things in your life so that others can come to faith in Christ and spend eternity in heaven? How committed are you to sharing the love of Christ with others? What are you willing to sacrifice in your life so that you can better serve the Lord?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Nothing should be more important to the born-again Christian's life than his or her relationship with God.
- Being totally sold out to God means offering our lives and spiritual gifts to Him on a daily basis as a living sacrifice.
- The most effective areas to serve evangelistically in any church is in the areas of Children's and Youth ministry.
- The best way to find your spiritual gift (or gifts) is to experiment in various areas of ministry to see where you are the most gifted and where you find the greatest joy.
- Churches need to be very careful in choosing the staff members for their church.
- At the very minimum, staff members must hold to a Judeo-Christian World View.
- Complete commitment to God and His Word is essential for every Christian, but especially for those who serve in ministry.

