**Genesis 22:1-19**

***When God Tests A Man***

Introduction

1. James 1:2-4 *Count it all joy when you fall into various testings…* A test is something that occurs that is outside. (1:13-14) *Temptation* is something inside, and comes from sin, self or Satan.

2. Genesis 22:1-19 Abraham is being tested. Are you going through something that brings you to the end of yourself?

Are you being tested?

**I. THE REQUEST IN TESTING 22:1, 2**

We are asked to give to God what He has given to us.

1. ***This Demands A Relationship*** It was a long journey to get Isaac. Do you have a relationship with God? Have you received Jesus Christ?
2. ***This Demands A Readiness 1b***
3. **Timing** *It came to pass…after these things* You pray for a miracle and then you put your trust in the miracle. Don’t pray for a person and then put your trust in that person…marriage…a job…a career…a house…money, etc.
4. **Testing** *Abraham behold…*Abraham responds immediately.
5. ***This Demands A Revelation 2*** God revealed His plan.
6. **Something Priceless** *“thy son, thy only son”*
7. **Something Precious** *“whom thou lovest”*
8. **Something Precise** *“get thee into the land of Moriah…to one of the mountains…I will tell thee"*
9. **Something Piercing** *“offer him there for a burnt offering”* Martin Luther’s wife Kate: *“God would never ask that of a father to give his only son whom he loved”.*

Luther: *“He did!”*

If you have children, answer these 3 questions:

 \*Who is more important to you, the children or Me? What you prayed for…does it take

 God’s place?

 \*Who really owns your children? Do you pray more for their success than their salvation?

 Which would mean more to you…Willy being the captain of the football team and gets a

 full ride to a Division I university or being used by God in years to come? Suzy being

 best looking and most popular girl who is #1 in her class or being used by God in years

 to come? What if *to be used* means a handicap, an emotional weakness or a tragic

 rejection? **God owns our children. They are a loan. GOD IS EVERYTHING!**

 \*Are you more concerned that they become like Him than like you? Each is unique! **Build**

 **an altar and leave them there!**

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**II. THE RESPONSE IN TESTING 22:3-5**

It takes preparation.

1. ***His Hands Were Prepared 3*** Notice the action verbs: *rose up…saddled…cut the wood…rose up…went*
2. Abraham may have been 115-120 years of age. Isaac would be an older teen. When God called him, he didn’t question or complain. He rose up early, saddled his donkey, took 2 young men with him, cut the wood and went to the place which God had told him.
3. At times of testing do what you know is the will of God. Obedience is the key. Quit moaning and complaining!
4. ***His Head Was Prepared 4*** This was a 3 day journey, about 30 miles. He had 3 days and nights to think. At times of testing take time to think and not merely react out of emotions.
5. ***His Heart Was Prepared 5*** *Abide here, the lad and I will go yonder and worship and come again..*
6. *Worship:* this verse may shatter our idea of worship. They don’t have a Praise Band or organ or piano. *“I will go up before God and give Him back all He has given me and I will have worshipped.” “I will go up and do exactly what God has asked me to do and I will have worshipped.”***It is yielding the rein of our will to a sovereign God and giving Him all the glory.**
7. *We will come again…*How is a burnt sacrifice going to *come again?* (Heb. 11:17-19) *accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead.* God had made him a promise and promises. God cannot lie! **He believed and acted upon it!**

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**III. THE RELIANCE IN TESTING 22:6-8**

God will do it!

1. ***The Care 6***
2. **His Actions** Are you personally and intimately involved with God and His work? Note the verbs: *took wood…laid it on Isaac…took fire and knife…they went together*He is doing everything he will need to do to carry out the will of God.
3. **His Attitude** *a burnt offering…*Abraham died before he could put Isaac to death!
4. **His Accompaniment** *they/them went both together* Isaac was also *submissive:* *willing, joyful obedience in attitude and action. Yielding up your rights in love.* **The child who cannot submit to their parents, cannot submit to God.**
5. ***His Credibility 7, 8*** Is God worthy of trust?
6. **The Anxiety 7** *Behold the fire and the wood…where is the lamb?* Here is the question of the ages: ***Where is the Lamb?*** To those who are lost…where is the Lamb? To the depressed Christian…where is the Lamb? Maybe your marriage is being tested…where is the Lamb? The report from the doctor is negative…where is the Lamb?
7. **The Answer 8** *God will provide himself a lamb…*He did in the person of Jesus Christ! To the lost…**Behold the Lamb!** To the depressed…**Behold the Lamb!** To the hurt, bruised, broken…**Behold the Lamb!** To those addicted…**Behold the Lamb! Get your eyes off yourself and back on Jesus!**

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**IV. THE READINESS IN TESTING 22:9, 10**

God picked the very site of the future temple!

1. ***Faith In Action 9*** Note the action of Abraham: *built…laid…bound…laid him on the altar of wood.* **Lay that test on the altar!**
2. ***Faith In Actuality 10*** Timing…God is slow, but He is never late. Abraham thought He may have to raise him from the dead. God is never in a hurry! Neither God nor Abraham are playing games. Obeying the will of God is serious business. Place whatever it is on the altar. Die to *my dreams…my rights…my future.*

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**V. THE REPLY IN TESTING 22:11-19**

 ***A. He Received God’s Provision 11-14***

**1. God’s Messenger 11** *The angel of the Lord* many feel this is the pre-incarnate Christ.

 **2. God’s Message** It’s about a ram…a substitute

 \*Faith Is Seen 12 *Now I know you fear Me…you love Me.* The way God knew: *You*

 *have not withheld your son.* **That is the test:** What do we withhold from God?

 \*Faith Is Sacrificial 13*Abraham…lift…look…behold* Sin must be paid for. It is either

 the death of the sinner or the death of a Substitute. With the burnt offering all was

 consumed.

 \*Faith Is Substantiated 14 Abraham received a new view of God: *Jehovah Jirah…the*

 *Lord will provide.* **When we do what God says, He blesses in a profound way!**

 ***B. He Received God’s Promise 15-19*** *Because you have done this:* God renews His covenant:

 "*I will…Because you have obeyed my voice”*

**If you want God’s best, then put God first!**

*Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and I will do the rest! (Mt. 6:33)*