

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

The Lord Will Provide

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Genesis 22:1-24

Theme: Entrust your dearest dreams to the Lord who will provide.

Introduction: What do you dream about? What are your hopes for the future? Genesis 22 contains one of the most famous and heart-wrenching stories in the Bible as the Lord seemingly calls Abraham to give up his dreams for the future. Yet in Abraham's response and in the Lord's wise ways, we learn how to entrust our dreams to him. The Lord tested Abraham's faith and he serves an example for us.

We can unpack Abraham's trial through 3 stages:

1. The greatest test of faith (1-8)

The Lord commanded Abraham to take Isaac and to sacrifice him, which required the death not only of his beloved son, but also of his future plans.

The Lord was testing him. His testing is never a temptation to sin, but it is the way that he proves our faith by trial. Abraham's obedience proved his faith.

There are clues in the text that Abraham struggled, but his obedience was clear.

The logic of faith begins with God's faithfulness and reasons back from there.

2. The surprising provision of a substitute (9-14)

As Abraham and Isaac approach Mt. Moriah to sacrifice, Isaac asks, "where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" This epitomizes the theme of the entire OT.

As Abraham prepared to slaughter Isaac and raised his knife, the Lord stopped him. The Lord would provide the substitute.

Mt. Moriah would be a recurring site of sacrifice in the OT, through life of David, to the temple, and all the way to Jesus himself.

3. The blessing of faith confirmed (15-24)

The angel of the Lord who announced the Lord's reprieve also announced the blessing of the Lord upon Abraham: he would possess the gates of his enemies.

That phrase expresses total victory. To possess the gates is to capture the city.

We also see the Lord rewarding Abraham with descendants. There is often a link between our obedience and the Lord's rewards.

Good works are not a condition of salvation, but they are a consequence of it. "To obey is to find new assurance" (Kidner).

The Lord swore by himself to Abraham, making an unshakeable promise.

Questions:

1. What is your hoped-for future? How is the Lord testing you?

2. How are you responding now to disappointment(s)?

3. How is the Lord blessing your obedience?