Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 1 – 2

* God does not put Abraham to the test to find out if Abraham is legit. **HA!** *“I wonder if Abraham is legit? If he’s just faking all this faith stuff…if his altars are sincere…Let Me test him!”* That’s not it **at all.** 1 John 3:20 says, *“God is greater than our hearts as He knows everything!”* Psalm 139:4 says, *“Before a word is on my tongue You, Lord, know it completely!”* In fact, in total, there are **more than 130 verses** in the Bible that speak to God’s ***all-knowing omniscience!***
* So why the test? Romans 4:16 calls Abraham, *“The father of all who have faith,”* and the primary, most important, critical and urgent role of the father (and the mother for that matter) is to educate, and to **guide by example!** God had given His Word. God had given His promises regarding Isaac… Genesis 12 God had said, *“I will make you a great nation!”* Genesis 15 God had taken Abraham outside and showed him the stars in the night sky and said, *“So shall your decedents be.”* And Abraham believed God…
* Last chapter, Genesis 21, God said to Abraham, *“It is through Isaac that your decedents will be called.”* *Faith is the substance (the confidence) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*…and faith that is not active is just ***good intentions***…even when you have to choose God over your *senses, emotions and earthly needs.* God now asked something entirely, detrimentally difficult of Abraham…**but Abraham believed God**…Abraham knew God’s Word…and so Abraham was *ready* for a miracle! (Cue Patti LaBelle! – HA! *“Leap of Faith”* movie)
* To go forward with this meant that Abraham not only believed God but that he also in his humanity was trusting in God doing what is ***earthly crazy!*** Raising the dead… *“Offer your son as a burnt offering…”* That means to fulfill His Word, God would have to raise Isaac from ashes…He may not have liked it, He may have been terrified, He may have been entirely emotionally distressed…but **above all of those things**…he believed God to be faithful to His Word AND Abraham chose God’s Word over his own **internal dictator** – his emotions…that kids, is the demonstration of faith, the only faith there really is...
* And notice this, God calls Isaac Abraham’s *“only son.”* May seem rough but it is **entirely significant.** Remember our conversation last week? *“Cast out the bondwoman?”* By calling Isaac Abraham’s only son, God is messaging that once the son of promise is on the scene, the son of the bondwoman is not just cast out, not just removed, the son of the bondwoman, the law, the slave…**is dead to Him**…and so God regards Isaac alone as Abraham’s only son.
* But wait there’s more…this is a ***tight parallel*** in numerous ways to Jesus. A foreshadow of what is to come because of the faithfulness of God…That God would take His only Son to the same place…this mountain of Moriah of which the highest peak is actually Golgotha, Calvary, where God would give His Son for the sins of the world…

Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 3 – 5

* There is just **so much going on** in this scene! Back in verse 2, this is the first mention of the word *“love”* in the Bible. All the relationships that had *come and gone*…Adam and Eve, Noah, Seth, and God has ***reserved the word for this account.*** The first mention of the word ***love*** describes the first love there ever was, the origination of love, and that is between father and son…all other love ever known flows from this love…the love between the Father and the Son.
* And then here in verse 5, the first use of the word ***worship*** in the Bible. Abraham was known for his altars…he built them everywhere! But never was the word worship introduced…it was ***reserved for this account.*** It’s the word *shachah* and it literally means *“to bow down.”* They didn’t go for joyful praise or mood music…music wasn’t even involved at all…the worship service we hold before Bible study isn’t the music…we simply use music in worship…worship is ***bowing yourself*** to God.
* And notice, verse 2, on the night before, *“On one of the mountains of which I shall tell you,”* and then the next morning, verse 3, *“Abraham arose and went to the place of which God* ***had told*** *him.”* What happened that night? We don’t know. Did God tell Abraham (reveal to him) what would happen thousands of years later on Calvary? We can’t say…but something does happen because the text goes from *“God will tell him,”* to *“God told him…”*
* And finally (just so much going on here) Abraham says to his two servants, *we both will go and worship and we will both will come back to you!* Abraham’s faith gave him **such confidence!** A lot *sounds or seems* impossible, but above anything else, ***what is truly impossible is for God to betray His own Word.*** Abraham was counting on that *(and so am I)!*

Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 6 – 7

* The **wood** laid on the son is a picture of the **cross** that will be carried by Christ, and Isaac asks his father, *“Where is the lamb?”* This is the first use of the word ***lamb*** in all of the Bible. *(Find the first use of the word in John and you get your answer – John 1:29)* Many sacrifices and burnt offerings had taken place but again, ***God reserved the use of the word until this account.*** And so we have the words, *love, worship and lamb*…***all reserved for this scene…***

Genesis Chapter 22 Verse 8

* Literally, what Abraham replied was, *“God will provide* ***Himself*** *the lamb…”* Exactly what He did…man couldn’t do it…***sick and riddled with sin***…passed down from generation to generation, to satisfy the law, the satisfy the justice of a holy God, to settle the debt, God the Father sent forth His perfect Son, the Lamb of God, to pay for the sins of the world…and notice, *“The two of them went together,”* it’s the word *“yachad”* and it means, ***“united.”***

Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 9 – 11

* The *Angel of the Lord*, and we will find Him called simply *“Lord”* in just a moment…calls out to Abraham. I wonder if Isaac said, ***“Did you hear that!?”*** **HA!** But notice, Isaac is bound, blind-folded…placed on the wood, knife in hand…forsaken and lost…just like we talked about in our Matthew 27 study this past Sunday…

Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 12 – 14

* *Jehovah Jireh!* In the mount of the Lord, the Lord will provide and man, 2,000 years later, **God made good on His name**…Another cool nugget, this is the third day still…and so Abraham received his son back from the dead on the third day.

Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 15 – 19

* There is an underlying message and lesson here that I just want to touch on because we are out of time…many times God will ask, and really God ***has*** asked, a lot of His children, His disciples…, *“Peter, do you love Me more than these?” “If anyone does not hate even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.”*  To the rich man, *“Sell all you have, give it all away, and come and follow Me.” “Take up your cross daily and follow after Me.”*  But many times, the minute you step forward in obedience, He calls out, ***lay not your hand on the lad…***
* The minute you’re willing to give up your financial stability, your job, ***your whatever***…for the sake of God…or give up your this or that because that is what God would *have you to do*…so often, ***that’s when you actually gain it***…whatever it is. *“Whoever would lose for my sake, will gain…but whoever will not, whoever loves his life more than he loves his Savior, loses even that which he has…”* (John Chapter 12) *What good is it if a man gains everything and yet loses his soul*…**in the giving of things over to God, that is the very point in which you gain everything…including that *very* thing…**

Genesis Chapter 22 Verses 20 – 24

* Seemingly out of place, we are introduced to Rebekah and the scene is set for Isaac…the resurrected, returned son and now we are introduced to his ***bride…***