

Trusting God's Ways 2021-04-18

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said,

“Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”

He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Faith entrusts all to God especially when not understanding what He is doing.

- No greater example: God telling Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. 1-time command (never before/after) seems inconsistent with God's character and promises to Abraham Genesis 22:1-4, 21:12b, Hebrews 11:17-18
- All Abraham's hopes/dreams literally wrapped up in Isaac.
 - Faith does not withhold most precious gifts from God but entrusts to Him.
- Not blind faith: knew God's character/promises and obeyed. Hebrews 11:19, Genesis 22:5-8
 - Greek “considered” = numerical calculation: take into account in light of facts.
- Knew somehow, somehow, God would be faithful to His promises.
 - Even do what was never done before in world history: resurrection
 - Hope and faith in midst of great anguish.

Abraham would have sacrificed Isaac if God had not stopped him. Genesis 22:9-12

- God did not want sacrifice of a son but surrender of a father.
- God desires that nothing in the world is more dear to us than Jesus Christ and for us to entrust the most precious things in our life to Him.....children, future, marriage, job.
- More you know God's character/promises, the easier is to trust Him especially when we do not understand what He doing. Isaiah 55:8-9
 - By indwelling Holy Spirit can meet challenge of tests in His power/strength.
 - Pray.....“I trust You with everything even _____.

Cross ensures we can trust God to keep His promises especially when not understanding.

- Deeper truth in God's command for Abraham to kill his son: type of what Father do with His Son.
 - Only by understanding typological significance can we grasp that God's initial command to sacrifice Isaac was holy, just and pure.

Picture of God's rescuing love through a substitute and the cost of Father's involvement.

Slide of comparison – see page 2

- Abraham & Isaac walking up Mt Moriah reminiscent of Jesus walking to cross in harmony with the Father.
 - Mt Moriah future place 1000's of animals sacrificed in Solomon's Temple and can see Calvary from there. 2 Chronicles 3:1
- Isaac bore wood for burnt offering/Jesus bore His cross.
- Isaac's obedience typified Jesus' submission to the will of the Father.
 - Isaac (around 20) stronger, faster than Abraham (120), did not protest/resist
- Abraham builds altar, binds son, brings instruments of death (knife, fire) all symbolized the Father not passive witness at Calvary but the One bringing it about.
- Ram symbolizes God's provision of Jesus Christ as our substitute.....Jehovah Jireh

This account not just symbolic of cross but also resurrection! Genesis 22:4, Hebrews 11:19, Luke 24:46

- dead for 3 days in Abraham's mind. Figuratively received Isaac back from dead. Father did what Abraham not have to do, sacrifice only begotten Son because necessary for redemption of His people. Romans 8:32

- demonstrates Father's love in unforgettable way every parent can identify with.
 - How much Father loves you - gave His precious Son in your place.
 - Because of the cross, we can entrust all to God especially when not understand what He doing.

The son carried the wood for the sacrifice.
Genesis 22:6; John 19:17

The son submitted to the father's will.
Genesis 22:9; Matthew 26:39

The father was actively part of the sacrifice of the son.
Genesis 22:3, 6, 9; Acts 4:27-28

God provided the substitute.
Genesis 22:13; Romans 5:8