



Rock Creek Baptist Church
Feb 11, 2018

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Do You Love Me More?

Do you really love God more than anything else?

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Abraham has finally seen the birth of his son, at 100 years old, having waited for years! There's been ups and downs to get here, but that's all in the past and now Abraham can relax and enjoy his son...right?

Genesis 22:1

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied.

Sometimes God's voice is soft and subtle, sometimes it booms in like an "interruption." Abraham knows that God's "interruptions" have turned out pretty great, and responds in faith ready to follow.

Genesis 22:2

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

God states the command several different ways.

It is much easier for us to sacrifice to God that which we don't care as much about.

Ismael represents the past, Isaac the future. It would have been easier to give God the past than to give to God his future.

We should all give God our past, no matter how awful. But we owe Him our future as well.

Genesis 22:3

Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

We might have dragged our feet at this point but Abraham doesn't delay. And at 100 years old, with servants available, he cuts the firewood himself. He fully commits to the WHOLE process.

Genesis 22:4-5

On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you."

"WE" will come back? What does this mean? We get insight from Hebrews...

Hebrews 11:17-19

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death.

Do you ever pray to God to bring healing but tell yourself "but He won't...he can do anything...but I don't think He will..."

James 1:6-7

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Abraham is trusting for a miracle he doesn't have a lot of external proofs for. There weren't a lot of resurrected people to tell him about it.

Not everyone believed in resurrection even in Jesus' day. Only the Pharisees did!

Acts 23:6-8

Then Paul, knowing that some of them were Sadducees and the others Pharisees, called out in the Sanhedrin, "My brothers, I am a Pharisee, descended from Pharisees. I stand on trial because of the hope of the resurrection of the dead." When he said this, a dispute broke out between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. (The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, and that there are neither angels nor spirits, but the Pharisees believe all these things.)

We are called on to follow God, even when the external circumstances say that it doesn't make sense.

Story: the lady in the hospital with the red shoes

God might not answer your prayer the way you want, but can you trust Him to answer it His way? Can you trust Him with your future?

Genesis 22:6-10

Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

Symbols to pay attention to here:

Isaac is the only begotten son who willingly heads up the mountain
 He's bearing the wood on his back that he is to be killed upon
 The wood is for a burnt offering, and those were ONLY done for the remission of sin
 When young Isaac finally puts together what is happening, he allows his 100 year old father to bind him. He probably lifts himself up on the altar rather than have his elderly father do it. And he doesn't make any objection.
 And Abraham knows that God will provide the sacrificial lamb.

Genesis 22:11-14

But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."

The devil tempts us to weaken us, but God tests us to strengthen us.

God's question to Abraham is, do you love me more?
What if God were to ask you that question?

Luke 22:61-62

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Do you ever deny Jesus? If not with your words, then by your lifestyle?

Story: mean customers in the mall after church

Do you ever feel like because of your past that you can't get back in the same place with God again? God uses this moment with Peter not to push him away, but to draw Peter closer in and to learn from his mistakes, grow stronger in his faith and love of God

John 21:15-17

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

Jesus pulls Peter's brotherly love into a deeper unconditional love and surrender

Story: I love you more than chocolate

JOHN 21:15-17

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these [others do--with total commitment and devotion]?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You [with a deep, personal affection, as for a close friend]." Jesus said to him, "Feed My lambs." Again He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with total commitment and devotion]?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I

love You [with a deep, personal affection, as for a close friend].” Jesus said to him, “Shepherd My sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me [with a deep, personal affection for Me, as for a close friend]?” Peter was grieved that He asked him the third time, “Do you [really] love Me [with a deep, personal affection, as for a close friend]?” And he said to Him, “Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You [with a deep, personal affection, as for a close friend].” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep.

Luke 14:26-27

“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:26-27

You cannot be my disciple, unless you love me more than you love your father and mother, your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters. You cannot follow me unless you love me more than you love your own life. You cannot be my disciple unless you carry your own cross and follow me.

When faced with split second decisions to choose God or something else, go ahead and make up in your mind now that your default when you are overwhelmed, confused, uncertain, is to choose God above all else.

Story: the Japanese farmer and the rice

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Don't fall for the idea that once you've sacrificed big for God you are done for good!

Story: giving God \$1,000

In one column we have Abraham and Isaac.

Father Abraham is ready to sacrifice his only begotten son

There is preparation for the burnt offering for the remission of sins

There is anticipation of resurrection

The son goes willingly and is actively involved in the process, from carrying the wood on his back to getting up on that altar

There is anticipation of a lamb to substitute

And in the other column we have Jesus Christ.

The only begotten Son of the Father

Who is sacrificed for the remission of sins

Who is resurrected

Who goes willingly - even carrying that wooden cross on His back and allowing himself to be sacrificed

As the Lamb of God

The location of Mount Moriah...

The invitation today is to give all that you have to God, to love Him more!