

A FATHER'S FAITH

Genesis 22:1-18

INTRODUCTION:

Today we honor all you men who have been blessed to be fathers. As fathers God has given us a great responsibility to lead our children to faith in Jesus Christ. We can do this by demonstrating our faith to them in such a way that they choose that faith to be their own. They repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, having their sins forgiven and finding new life in Christ and beginning their own walk of faith. This morning I want to look at a father who lived His faith in God before his son so that his son too might find the joy of walking in faith as his father walked in faith.

I. ABRAHAM – A GODLY FATHER

- a. If you remember the history of Abraham, he was promised by God that he would become the _____ of a great nation.
- b. But then came the day that Abraham's faith in God was _____.

II. ABRAHAM SHOWS FAITH THROUGH OBEDIENCE (Genesis 22:1-3a)

- a. In the first two verses of this chapter we are told that God _____ Abraham.
- b. Isaac by this time was a young man, possibly in his teens, who by this time understood the _____ of God to his father and who also understood the _____ of his father in the one true God.
- c. Verse three begins, "*So Abraham rose _____ in the morning and saddled his donkey.*" (Genesis 22:3a, NASB95)

III. ABRAHAM SHOWS FAITH THROUGH ACTION (Genesis 22:3b-4)

- a. In the rest of verse three and all of verse four Abraham shows his faith through _____.

- b. Once everything was gathered, they headed off for the place where God had told him to go to _____ Isaac. (James2:14-26)

IV. ABRAHAM SHOWS FAITH THROUGH HOPE (Genesis 22:5-8)

- a. In Hebrews 11:1 we read, "*Now faith is the assurance of things _____ for, the conviction of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11:1, NASB95)
- b. Twice in these four verses we see Abraham showing his faith through _____. (Hebrews 11:17-19)

V. ABRAHAM SHOWS FAITH THROUGH SACRIFICE (Genesis 22:9-10)

- a. The apostle Paul wrote these words in Romans 12:1, "*Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy _____, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*" (Romans 12:1, NASB95)
- b. Abraham showed his faith through sacrifice, the sacrifice of his only _____.
- c. Abraham was showing his faith through the sacrifice of what was nearest and dearest to him, willingly giving him up for something else, the _____ of God.

VI. ABRAHAM SHOWS FAITH THROUGH WORSHIP (Genesis 22:11-14)

- d. The final way that Abraham demonstrated his faith to Isaac was through _____.
- e. I can see Abraham and Isaac kneeling at that altar worshipping the God of promise for showing Himself _____ once again. (Hebrews 11:19)

VII. GOD BLESSED ABRAHAM'S OBEDIENCE (Genesis 22:15-18)

- a. God blessed Abraham for his _____.

- b. When we live a life of _____ in Jesus Christ that is demonstrated by our obedience, our action, our hope, our sacrifice, and our worship we will be blessed both in this life and in the life to come. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

CONCLUSION:

As fathers our greatest responsibility is to lead our children to faith in Jesus Christ and the best way to do this is by showing them our faith in Jesus Christ, especially when our faith is being tested, when we are distressed by various trials as Peter writes. In those various trials we can show them our faith as we obediently follow God's Word, as we make our faith active by doing what God's Word says, as we express our hope in the promises and certainty of God especially when the end is not in sight, as we are willing to make sacrifices to God because of His greatness and His faithfulness to us, and as we worship the God who provides.

God never asked Abraham to do anything that He was not willing to do. God the Father willingly sacrificed His Son on the altar of the cross, shedding His blood for the sins of the world. Jesus Christ became our substitute just as the ram became Isaac's. If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, your faith will be tested, how will you respond to that test when God asks you to offer something of value to you to Him as a burnt offering? Will you respond as Abraham did so that your children can see your faith and be drawn to it and want it for their own, or will you be like the father in the beginning of this message who kept the dog, but lost his sons.