

SURPRISED BY GOD – GENESIS 22:1-24

Series: THE JOURNEY OF PURSUING GOD'S WILL

¹ Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." **Genesis 22:1-2 (NASB)**

1. EXPECT TESTS FROM GOD

- Abraham passed the family, fellowship, fight, fortune, and farewell tests, but he failed the fatherhood and famine tests.

¹³ Every test that you have experienced is the kind that normally comes to people. But God keeps his promise, and he will not allow you to be tested beyond your power to remain firm; at the time you are put to the test, he will give you the strength to endure it, and so provide you with a way out. **1 Corinthians 10:13 (TEV)**

2. FOCUS ON PROMISES, NOT EXPLANATIONS

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ 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." **Genesis 22:3-5 (NIV)**

¹² But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." **Genesis 21:12 (NIV)**

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, ¹⁸ even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." ¹⁹ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death. **Hebrews 11:17-19 (NIV)**

⁵ 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." **Genesis 22:5 (NIV)**

3. DEPEND ON GOD'S PROVISION

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. **Genesis 22:8 (NIV)**

¹⁴ 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." **Genesis 22:14 (NIV)**

¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. ²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." **Romans 4:18-22 (NIV)**

4. SEEK TO GLORIFY CHRIST

- Abraham and Isaac reflected a picture of God the Father and Lord Jesus Christ:

- a) *The Father and Son acted together*
- b) *The Son had to die*
- c) *The Son bore the burden of sin*
- d) *The Son was raised from the dead*

5. LOOK FORWARD TO WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU

¹⁰ But he knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold. **Job 23:10 (NIV)**

- Abraham received several blessings from God as a result of his obedient faith: (Genesis 22)

- a) *He received a new approval from God (v.12)*
- b) *He received back a new son*
- c) *He received new assurances (vv. 16-18)*
- d) *He received a new Name for God (vs. 14)*

¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, **Genesis 22:17 (NIV)**