

Bishop Jesse Rice

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Sermon Notes

Genesis 22:1-19

1. God asked Abraham for that which he cherished. His son, Issac. God said “take your son, your only son”. God knew Abraham had another son, Ishmael. But, Issac was the son of the promise. Ishmael was the son of “self-effort”.
2. How many of us try to give God what we don't want. God wants our very best, those things that we cherish. God wants our obedience. Sometimes we want to give God what we want Him to have. God isn't opposed to us having “stuff”, but God wants to have US.
3. Abraham had a long journey. He split the wood, he got the fire and took off. Sometimes the journey is long. God says don't give up, just because it gets hard.
4. Abraham tells the other men, “stay here”. Abraham says “We are going to worship”. Although God asked for the sacrifice, Abraham goes forward with an attitude of worship. Sometimes we'll go where God sends us. But we go complaining.
5. Abraham says “We're going to go worship, but we'll be back”. This is faith in action. Commentators say that the place where Abraham went to make the sacrifice, is the same place where God offered up His only son – Jesus. This is a “prototype” of what will happen some years later. Commentators also state that Abraham went knowing that

if he sacrificed Issac, God had the ability to raise him up again.

6. Issac asked “where is the sacrifice”. Abraham’s response should be ours – God will provide. We have to believe that God can do it. If we feel that the vision is about to die, we must know that God can raise it up again.
7. V. 8 – “My son, God will provide for himself a burnt offering”, says Abraham. We tend to look at the way things are. Abraham believed that God could do whatever he plans. We need to expand the way we think. We think too small. Sometimes we hold on so tight to certain things, that we don’t give God the opportunity to expand us. We have to make room for expansion – for more.
8. Abraham could be thinking “if I kill the boy...” – but God knows that he promised Abraham that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands.
9. Abraham was a worshipper. No where in scripture does it say that Abraham got down on his knees to worship. However his worship was there, in his heart.
10. When Issac asked about the sacrifice, Abraham’s response is “God will provide for himself”. Abraham understood that God is God. God is looking for some willing vessels. God wants us to trust him. “The just shall live by faith”.
11. Abraham took the knife, not just for show, but he had every intention on doing what God sent him to do. Abraham tied up the boy. Issac submitted. He allowed himself to be tied up. He didn’t fight. Issac thought he was

about to die. Its not Issac's faith, but Abraham's faith on display in this story. Issac didn't have the promise, God made the promise to Abraham. Issac is just a lad, trusting his father. God wants that from us. He wants us to submit to Him as Father.

12. God had already provided. Just like Hannah promised her son (Samuel) back to God. We don't have anything so precious or so good, that we cannot give it back to the Lord. Abraham demonstrated that God gave him Issac and he was willing to give him back to God (expecting God to return him again to Abraham).
13. How many of us trust God in our darkest hour. Abraham believed God to be able to raise up Issac from the dead. (Hebrews 11).
14. Sometimes the vision may look like its dead. But in God, its' not dead. Just hold on, "keep on keeping on".
15. God wants our worship and he wants our trust. He wants what's dearest to our hearts. God doesn't desire human sacrifice, but he wants to test our faith by giving him what's most important to us. There is nothing that we have, that God didn't give us.
16. Because Abraham demonstrated his faith, God blessed him and multiplied him. V.15-17.