



## **Road Trip - Part 11 Sermon Discussion Notes**

### **Opening Thought**

On January 1, 1863 Abraham Lincoln sat down at a desk to sign a very important piece of legislation. Our 16th president was about to sign the infamous Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln picked up a pen; he paused and steadied his hand around the pen because he didn't want his signature to be shaky or hesitant. Lincoln knew that as he signed this document this was the most important thing he would ever do and he wanted posterity to know he did it with resolve and complete confidence. We come to the last scene of Abraham's story (Abraham the Patriarch). If Abraham's life and story were like a mountain range this would be the Mount Everest of his story. It has been said that "a picture is worth a thousand words." In the picture of Abraham sacrificing Isaac we get the greatest picture in the Old Testament of God's plan of salvation for the whole world.

### **Key Passage**

#### **Genesis 22:1-19 (See Also Hebrews 11:17-19)**

1 Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 2 Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about." 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." 6 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, 7 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?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 9 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. 10 Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. 11 But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. 12 "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." 13 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. 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." 15 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me." 19 Then Abraham returned to his servants, and they set off together for Beersheba. And Abraham stayed in Beersheba. NIV

## Discussion Questions

1. The story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac is a two dimensional story. On the first level it is a story about obedience. Abraham in this story is completely obedient to the LORD. What is a good definition of obedience for a person that is a follower of the Lord?
2. When Genesis 22:1 says that after God spoke to Abraham he replied "Here I am" - what are the implications found in Abraham's response to the voice of God?
3. The scripture says that Abraham left early in the morning to take Isaac to the mountain to sacrifice. (Genesis 22:3) How does Abraham's quick and prompt response illustrate this principle: Delayed obedience is really disobedience?
4. Abraham's prompt obedience demonstrates that not only does God give directives on what we should do in life but also when we should do them. Why is it important for us to obey the Lord when he speaks to us and not much later from the time he speaks to us?
5. Some of the areas we should obey the Lord in are listed below. Discuss these items and other items you think the Lord is calling us to obey him in.
  - Forgiving people that have hurt us - letting go of the anger that finds its way into our hearts.
  - Witnessing or inviting people to church.
  - Sharing an encouraging word with someone that the Lord speaks to us about.
  - Giving financially to further ministry in our community.
6. The second dimension of the story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac is a picture of God's plan of salvation for us. Why do you think God uses pictures to illustrate his love for us?
7. Art is a picture that represents a certain reality. For instance a beautiful picture of a landscape is a representation of the real thing. How does that principle apply to the picture God paints through Abraham sacrificing Isaac?
8. Discuss the items in this story that illustrate the work of Jesus on the cross.
  - a. Abraham the Father is a picture of whom?
    - Isaac the beloved son is a picture of whom? (Genesis 22:2, John 15:9, Matthew 3:17, 17:5, Mark 1:11)
    - Isaac carrying the wood on his back up the mountain for his own sacrifice is a picture of what in the gospel stories? (Genesis 22:6, John 19:18)
    - Mount Moriah

## Concluding Thought

4000 years before Jesus died on the cross Abraham and Isaac acted out a dress rehearsal of the greatest act of love in history.