Sermon Series: Abraham - A Journey of Faith

“Passing Life’s Hardest Tests”

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Matthew 10:37-39

8.27.17

Introduction:
A. As we walk with God, we realize that ________ is always ___________ and sometimes those tests are hard!
B. Through the tests we face, we learn where we need to ____________, or we discover how spiritually strong and mature we have ____________.
C. At about age ________, Abraham was about to face one of life’s hardest tests.

I. The Story
A. Genesis 22:1-2
   1. The request is actually quite shocking—God asked for a ________ sacrifice.
   2. God put His finger on the fact that ________ was ___________ to Abraham.
   3. God gave no ________________, just an expectation that Abraham would ________.
B. Genesis 22:3
   1. Abraham practiced ____________ obedience.
C. Genesis 22:4-6a
   1. The journey to Moriah covered about _____ miles and took ____ days.
   2. At its heart, worship involves a willingness to ____________ all to God.
   3. How did Abraham have the assurance that Isaac would return with him? (Heb. 11:17-19) He reasoned that God could ________ the ________.
D. Genesis 22:6b-8
   1. Isaac asked, “Where is the ________ for the burnt offering?”
   2. Abraham replied, “God himself will __________ the _________.
   3. Abraham’s words point nearly _________ years into the ___________.
E. Genesis 22:9-13
   1. The Lord allowed this drama to play out to the last moment to demonstrate the completeness of Abraham’s faith—both to ________ and the ________.
F. Genesis 22:14-19
   1. In response to Abraham’s obedience, God reaffirmed His ____________.

II. The Application
A. One primary lesson: Hold on to ________ above all things.
B. The things we treasure and cling to can be sorted into four categories:
   1. Our ________________.
   2. Our ________________.
   3. Our ________________.
   4. Our ________________.
C. Two truths to wrestle with about our tendency to cling to our ________________.
   1. What we put __________ of God, God will ask us to ____________.
   2. What we release, God will __________ with something or someone more ____________. (Mt. 19:27-30)