

**“Passing Life’s Hardest Tests”**

David Owens

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)

Answer Key: Intro. A. faith, tested. B. improve, become. C. 115. I.A.1. human. I.A.2. Isaac, everything. I.A.3. explanation, obey. I.B.1. immediate. I.C.1. 50, 3. I.C.2. surrender. I.C.3. raise, dead. I.D.1. lamb. I.D.2. provide, lamb. I.D.3. 2000, future. I.E.1. Abraham, world. I.F.1. promises. II.A. God. II.B.1. possessions. II.B.2. vocation. II.B.3. dreams. II.B.4. relationships. II.C. treasures. II.C.1. ahead, release. II.C.2. replace, valuable.