

Sermon Study Guide – February 18th, 2024

"Rethinking Trials"

1) Thoughts to get you started...

- ◆ Why does God let bad things happen to you? Why doesn't God put an end to the things sin does for those whom he has rescued from sin?
- ◆ What have you learned from difficult experiences you have gone through? What would your life be like without them?

2) Today's Message: Genesis 22:1-18 (see bulletin for full text)

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ²Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." ³Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded 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. ⁴On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵He 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..." ⁹When 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. ¹⁰Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹But 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." ¹³Abraham 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. ¹⁴So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide.

3) What does God want you to hear today?

Throughout the sermon, consider...

How does today's sermon show you your sin? (i.e. What's the law?)

How does today's sermon show your Savior? (i.e. What's the gospel?)

Law:

Gospel:

Answer the following questions if it helps you follow the sermon...

1. What leading up to our sermon text would have made it even *harder* for Abraham to consider sacrificing his son?
2. How did Abraham once pit his trials *against* God's promise & love?
3. How did Abraham now see trials as part of God's promise & love?
4. How would this trial be a blessing to Abraham? Likewise, how can we see trials as something that furthers our relationship with God?
5. How did God himself endure a worse trial than he asked Abraham to endure (or that he asks us to endure)?
6. When we face trials, whom are we against? Who is for us?

4) Taking it Home:

Read these sections of the Bible to reinforce this week's truths:

Monday: *review* Ro. 8:31-39, Mk 1:12-15, Ps. 25 **Thursday:** Genesis 17:1-18:15

Tuesday: Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-21

Friday: Genesis 21

Wednesday: Genesis 16

Saturday: *review* Genesis 22:1-18