

He Who Did Not Spare His Own Son

Genesis 22:1-19

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Main idea: Because nothing else would do, God gave His beloved Son for us, to forgive us so that we might be made like Him

Introduction: that test that you're not ready for. Do we think that Abraham is ready for this? Yet, he is, and the point of the test is to bring out of him what we otherwise would not have hoped was there. We discover that God, graciously, has worked greatly in the life of Abraham.

What God is testing for.

We must be willing to give God everything. That which we love the most. That which we thought was how His blessing would come to us.

How God uses our test.

- He shows the greatness of His work in Christ.
- He shows the greatness of His work in applying Christ to us—v12 not just particular actions, but the renovation of the heart to fear God.
- He employs us in bringing others to Christ (He employed Abraham in bringing Christ to us!). “Because you have done this thing” and “Because you have obeyed my voice”
 - God operates through good works—the privilege of obedience and service as a participation in this
 - God operates in response to good works—the privilege of union w/Christ... knowing that it is not the worthiness of what we have done but God's own display of His justness and the display of how worthy Christ is as our worthiness.

What God shows about us.

“Offer Isaac as ‘that which goes up’”—referring to the smoke of the burnt offering. In our flesh we deserve wrath and curse. Yet, because of the sacrifice of Christ, God can righteously and graciously use us.

What God shows about Himself.

He is willing to give everything, because nothing that we could give is good enough. Is the request of Abraham shocking? How much more shocking is the requirement of God Himself, and the willingness of God Himself! If we are going to have relationship with Him, there must be sacrifice for sin.

Conclusion: God is worthy of our love simply because He is God. But it is in the display of His love that God draws out our love. We love Him because He first loved us. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and gave His son to be the propitiation for our sins. God spares us and our children, because He did not spare His own Son.