



Abraham—Lesson 5

The Blind Obedience of Unwavering Faith

Biblical Character Sketches

An Old Testament portrait of Christ,
the Lamb of God (“Take thine only son”)

Genesis 22:1-18



**WALKING IN THEIR
SANDALS**

Exploring today's lesson

- A picture of Christ
- A moral dilemma
- Approach
- Text: Gen. 22:1-18

Scripture presents this event as a test.

- A **divinely** designed test of Abraham's faith
- A **culmination** of many tests in Abraham's life
- A **necessary** test of Abraham's faith

*“It is only when we are really put to the test that **we discover** what God is. Without trial we can be but **theorists**, and God would not have us such.”*

(Notes on the Pentateuch, Mackintosh.)

Application Questions

- For what do I **most need** to trust God in my life today?
- Am I **willing** to trust God with the things that are most precious to me?
- Will I **pass** the test when God tests my faith?
- Is my faith **progressing** toward a great triumph or a catastrophic failure?

“Provide himself a lamb” (8)

- Abraham is **not** identifying God (“himself”) as the provided sacrifice.
- “for Himself” is a preferred **grammatical** rendering.
- Regardless of translation “himself” \neq the sacrificial lamb.

“Jehovah-Jirah” (14)

The Lord

provides

A testimony

How we most often
use it

sees

An expression of
faith

How Abraham
used it



A Discussion Point

The Moral Dilemma

Does Jehovah's command to offer up a human sacrifice present a moral dilemma?

Considering the Moral Dilemma

- Statement of the dilemma

A morally perfect God commands
a hideous immoral act.

- 3 complicating factors:

1. God's command was contrary to His character.
2. Abraham expresses no moral reaction.
3. The passage completely ignores the blaring moral dilemma.

Addressing the Moral Dilemma

- Progressive revelation
- The antitype was a greater moral injustice.
- The sacrifice did not occur.
- It was a test, not instituted worship.
- A type must correlate to its antitype.

Practical Application

How believers deceive themselves
about God's will:

1. Being ignorant of Scripture
2. Mistaking their own will for God's will
3. Interpreting their own motives as God's leading
4. Thinking they are exercising faith when in fact they are tempting the Lord

A Parting Thought

Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible. Whether you look at Joseph in prison, Moses and Israel at the Red Sea, David in the cave, or Jesus at Calvary, the lesson is the same: We live by promises, not by explanations.

(Commentary of the Spiritual Life)



Abraham—Lesson 5 (END)

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