

*“I and the lad will go yonder and worship”  
Genesis 22:5*

Noah truly gave a costly sacrifice to God, but perhaps no one gave us a more dramatic example of costly, obedient worship than Abraham in Genesis 22.

*<sup>2</sup>And He (God) said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.*

*<sup>3</sup>And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. <sup>5</sup>And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.*

What a dramatic test of Abraham’s heart! God put His finger on Abraham’s past (Isaac was the son Abraham waited for all his life), his present (Abraham would have to answer everyone’s question “what happened to Isaac?”), and his future (all his family’s future was wrapped up in this son he loved with all his heart). Still, God asked Abraham to demonstrate in this dramatic act of worship what, or who was the center of his affection.

There are so many lessons we can learn about worship in this narrative.

- Notice that God initiated this worship relationship (Gen 22:1).
- God called Abraham to offer up his son Isaac as a whole burnt offering, holding nothing back (Gen 22:2).
- Abraham responded to the test by making all the necessary preparations to obey God and leaving promptly the very next morning (Gen 22:3).
- Abraham publicly proclaimed to his servants that he was going to “worship” (Gen 22:5).
- When Isaac questioned his father, Abraham responded with a statement of faith (Gen 22:7-8).

Of course we know the rest of the story, but Abraham did not. Put yourself in his sandals and answer yourself these questions.

- What was Abraham looking to “get out” of this worship? If you get nothing out of worship except the satisfaction that you gave to God what He wanted, is that enough for you?
- If Abraham had actually sacrificed his son, would it have been a “successful” worship time? How do you measure success in your worship?

What God did after Abraham proved his allegiance to Him was to dramatically intervene and provide a ram that was offered in Isaac’s place. God rewarded Abraham’s faith filled, God-focused worship. That is a lesson we can take home and live. Remember, this was a special time in biblical history so if you ever feel like sacrificing your son on an altar in worship, don’t do it, get help! God is definitely not asking anyone to do that. What God does want is for us to value

Him more than anything or anyone else. And, as we have seen before, God is honored when we seek to worship abandoning the pursuit of our own happiness and supremely desiring the happiness of God. You see, God stands ready to bless you. He wants to bless but we can so easily become self-focused in our worship, wondering what we get out of our relationship with God the Father. Leave that up to Him, trust and obey His Word in your worship and leave the results up to God. God rewarded Abraham's who feared and loved God supremely (Gen 22:12).

*My life I give to You, O Lord, use me I pray.  
May I glorify Your precious Name in all I do and say.  
Help me trust You in the valley dark as well as in the light.  
Knowing You will always guide me Your will is always right.*

*I know God makes no mistakes,  
He leads in every path I take along the way that's leading me to home.  
Though at times my heart would break there's a purpose in every change He makes:  
That others would see my life and know that God makes no mistakes.*

*And when someday in heav'n above I see His dear face,  
May I then be counted faithful as a runner in this race.  
Now I'm trusting in the Savior to show me the way.  
In His righteousness he guides me as I seek to please Him day by day.*