



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Sinners Conquer Only Through Christ 1st Sunday in Lent: Feb 21, 2021

Genesis 22:1-18

¹Some 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." ⁶Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. 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. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided." ¹⁵The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

1. Did you/have you given something up for Lent? Why might this custom serve a good purpose? Why could it turn dangerous?
2. What was a time where God had a great test in store for you? What were the temptations as you looked to follow his will?
3. Sometimes we are tempted to feel like God is overburdening us with a particularly hard test or long period of testing. Review the series of tests that God had in store for Abraham. See Genesis 12:1, 14:14, 15:2-5, 17:17, 21:11-12, 22:1-2,17. What is God using these tests to do?
4. How does the Bible change our perspective on facing trials and tests in James 1:2,3,12?
5. When God asked Abraham to sacrifice his Son, Luther remarked, "This must have seemed like a command of the devil." For what reasons would this command have seemed so opposite of God's will?
6. God called Abraham to go to the region of Moriah, to a specific mountain. Read 2 Chronicles 3:1. What was eventually built on a mountain named Moriah? Christ was sacrificed outside the walls of Jerusalem, where the temple was built on Mount Moriah. What seems to be the connection between all of these?
7. Abraham named that mountain, "The LORD Will Provide." As we look at every test we face and every idol we are called to give up, it seems hard, impossible even. What comfort does the name of that mountain give us as we climb the mountain of trial and testing in our lives?