

Genesis 22

Take Your Son ... Whom You Love

A most extraordinary incident ...

I. An Unimaginable Test

- A. An Unthinkable Offering
- B. An Unfaltering Trust
- C. A Reasonable Inquiry
- D. The Moment of Truth
- E. Jehovah-jireh

II. An Unmistakable Type

- A. God's Only Begotten Son
- B. The Staggering Counsel of God
- C. Who is the Lamb?
- D. The Power of the Cross
- E. God's Provision for Sinners

III. An Undeniable Love

- A. Motive
- B. Action
- C. Divine Intensity

... for the most extraordinary purpose.

Children, Listen ...

1. What did God tell Abraham to do?
2. How was it possible for Abraham to do such a thing?
3. What did God provide in place of Isaac?
4. What does this story remind you of?
5. Why is Jesus called the "Lamb of God?"

Unfathomable Sacrifice

We have come to what I consider one of the most intense and glorious narratives in Genesis if not in the entire Old Testament. What Abraham is required to do should rattle our sensitivities to the core. In the end we are relieved by the happy ending and astounded by Abraham's faith, but what this incident speaks to is far more awe-inspiring and unimaginably profound. We are directed to God the Father's love for sinners like us in giving His only begotten Son to die for our sins. There was no stay of execution, no substitute for Jesus on the cross. Only He would do as the atoning sacrifice to secure redemption for souls like ours. See in this ancient story the depth of the Father's love for us in Christ Jesus! As the prophet John the Baptizer said: "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world." This should rattle us to the depths of our very being.

Yes, there is a happy ending because death could not hold Him – but an unimaginable death had to take place before the glorious victory. That victory is ours in Christ. There is a happy ending indeed for all who believe wholeheartedly in Him. So let every heart be broken by such unfathomable love and let every soul who trusts in Jesus rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of grace in the truth that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16