

FOCUS FOR THE UNFORESEEABLE
“Father’s Day”

FOCUS

Heb. 11:17-19

Heb. 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God *was* able to raise *him* up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Last week we covered Heb. 11:13-16, which was a unique departure from the previous two weeks regarding our observation of how Abraham had focused upon and faced the “unforeseeable” events in his life.

- At the age of 75, Abraham was called to go out of his homeland, Ur of the Chaldees, to go into a land that God had not yet shown him:

Heb. 11:8 **By faith Abraham**, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed**; and **he went out, not knowing whither he went.**

- By faith, Abraham sojourned, with Isaac and Jacob.

Heb. 11:9 **By faith he sojourned** in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

During the time of sojourning, Abraham encountered other events than those listed in Heb. 11.

- When Abraham was 86 years old, Ishmael was born.

Gen. 16:16 And **Abram was fourscore and six years old**, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

- Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

Gen. 21:5 And **Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.**

- After Isaac was weaned, Sarah saw Ishmael mocking, and wanted Abraham to get rid of him and his mother, Hagar.

Gen. 21:9 And **Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian**, which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking**.

10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, *even* with Isaac.

11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

- Abraham, reluctantly, sent away Hagar and Ishmael – “...And **the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.**”
- Because Ishmael was Abraham's son, God blessed him.

Gen. 21:13 And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a nation, **because he is thy seed.**

- Enjoying Isaac's growth, Abraham was confronted with a special test from God – offer Isaac as a sacrifice.
- About 40 years after being called out of his homeland, Abraham faced another unforeseeable challenge.

I. GOD'S TIMING IS ALWAYS RIGHT

- In focusing on the unforeseeable, we must cultivate a spiritual perspective of time.

Gen. 21:2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, **at the set time of which God had spoken to him.**

A. God's timing has eternity in focus.

- We have a tendency to focus upon the immediate.
- We must cultivate a spiritual focus regarding *time*.

2 Cor. 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for **the things which are seen *are* temporal**; but **the things which are not seen *are* eternal**.

1 Tim. 1:17 Now **unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God**, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

B. God's timing includes endurance through faith.

Heb. 11:27 **By faith** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: **for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible**.

II. GOD'S TESTING IS ALWAYS RELEVANT

A. We must learn to focus on obedience before understanding the "why's."

- Isaac was the "son of promise" regarding the future generations of Abraham.

Gen. 21:12 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight **because of the lad**, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; for **in Isaac shall thy seed be called**.

- Abraham's faith prevailed when he was called to go unto an unknown place: he obeyed, and went out by faith.
- Abraham's faith was now tested again.

Gen. 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that **God did tempt Abraham**, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*.
2 And he 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**.

Heb. 11:17 By faith Abraham, **when he was tried**, offered up Isaac: and **he that had received the promises** offered up his only begotten *son*,

- Can you imagine the spiritual wrestling match within the heart of Abraham as he traveled those three days to Mount Moriah?

2 Cor. 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

4 (For **the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God** to the pulling down of strong holds;)

5 **Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

B. We must recall the promises before having faith to follow through.

Rom. 4:20 **He staggered not at the promise of God** through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And **being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

- Relying on previous promises encouraged Abraham to expect the miraculous deliverance.

Gen. 22:4 Then **on the third day** Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

5 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**.

Heb. 11:19 **Accounting that God was able to raise *him* up, even from the dead**; from whence also he received him in a figure.

- Abraham looked beyond the immediate, unforeseeable circumstances, to trust God's promises regardless of how bleak things looked.

III. GOD'S TRANSFORMING IS ALWAYS REMARKABLE

A. God is not limited by man's apparent challenges of discouragements.

- Abraham went out when 75 years old; had Isaac when he was 100 years old; and went to face a challenging test with his "...only son Isaac, **whom thou lovest...**"

Gen. 22:2 And he said, **Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest**, and get thee into the land of Moriah

B. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think.

Eph. 3:20 Now **unto him** that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that worketh in us,
21 Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

- The offering was transformed to represent the sinless Lamb of God in representing the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for our sins.
- After the “third day,” they climbed Mount Moriah.
- Mount Moriah, the location of the Temple, was near Calvary = perfect symbolism!

2 Chron. 3:1 Then **Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah**, where *the LORD* appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

- Abraham’s life was transformed regarding priorities – **it was not about Isaac, it was about Abraham offering himself, totally, to God.**
- Isaac’s life was transformed regarding obedience and faith.
- The future was transformed with Isaac being the heir of promise.

Summary

- God didn't want Isaac – He wanted Abraham to humbly give Him his desire of his heart.
- Abraham was tried and passed the test!
- Abraham called the place, Jehovah-Jireh = "Jehovah will see (to it)"("provide")

Jehovah-jireh

Jehovah will see; i.e., will provide, the name given by Abraham to the scene of his offering up the ram which was caught in the thicket on Mount Moriah. The expression used in Genesis 22:14 , "in the mount of the Lord it shall be seen," has been regarded as equivalent to the saying, "**Man's extremity is God's opportunity.**"

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/jehovah-jireh/>

- You and I need to look beyond adversity to see how God may be trying our hearts:

Psa. 7:9 Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for **the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins.**

Prov. 17:3 The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: but **the LORD trieth the hearts.**

1 Thess. 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; **not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.**

- We need to learn that God is our Jehovah-Jireh:

Mt. 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for **your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.**

Phil. 4:19 But **my God shall supply all your need** according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

- What are our “Isaac’s” that we need to lay upon the altar?

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- Can we be like David and ask the Lord to try our hearts?

Psa. 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; **try my reins and my heart.**

Psa. 139:23 Search me, O God, and **know my heart: try me**, and know my thoughts:

- The principle of the offering was the test of Abraham's love and loyalty.
- Jesus issued a similar challenge for His disciples:

Luke 14:26 If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, **and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.**

27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple.** ...

33 So likewise, **whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.**

- Laying it all on the altar means putting the Lord Jesus Christ first in every aspect of our humanity:

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God with all thy heart**, and **with all thy soul**, and **with all thy strength**, and **with all thy mind**; and thy neighbour as thyself.

1 Chron. 29:17 I know also, **my God, that thou triest the heart**, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: **and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.**

- Abraham is called the Father of the Gentiles:

Rom. 4:16 Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, **but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,**

- This Father's Day, let's be presenting ourselves, totally, to the Lord Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

Rom. 4:20 **He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief**; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And **being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.

23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;

24 But **for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;**

25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.