

Surrendered: True Cost

Day 1

The End is Where We Begin

We will begin our devotions on Genesis 22 at the end, the place where things are resolved in Christ. Christ is at the center of the story of Abraham and his call to sacrifice Isaac and the result is that all of human history diverges. The normalcy of human sacrifice that existed in the ancient world ended because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. To learn more, check out this article:

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/abraham-take-your-son>

Verses: Hebrews 6:13-20, Romans 8:32, Galatians 3:16

Prayer Topics: Sacrifice, Redemption, Gratitude

Day 2

Costly

Check out this article:

<https://billygraham.org/articles/will-graham-devotion-a-sacrifice-that-costs-nothing-is-worth-nothing>

Then Consider these questions:

Scripture tells us that obedience is greater than sacrifice:

1 Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said,

*“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
as in obeying the voice of the Lord?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
and to listen than the fat of rams.*

Why is this the case? If obedience is better than sacrifice, why sacrifice? What is the difference between the sacrifices of the Old Testament and the sacrifices we are called on to make today? What is the relationship between ritual and obedience? What kinds of things might God be calling on you to sacrifice?

Prayer Topics: Obedience, Honesty, Respect

Day 3

Multiplication

Why should I give an offering to God? How will I get by on less? What will

become of my future if I make a sacrifice? In order to get the answers to these questions, check out this article:

<https://myocn.net/when-you-offer-something-to-god-he-multiplies-it/>

Verses: Hebrews 11:6, Luke 12:13-21, Philippians 4:19

Prayer Topics: Trust, Contentment, Joy

Day 4

Return

Abraham received Isaac back from the dead, according to the book of Hebrews. This was because Abraham had made the decision to sacrifice Isaac in obedience to the command of God. Abraham had faith in God, that the promise of God would stand even if he sacrificed his son, that indeed God would bring him back from the dead. When we sacrifice things to God we get them back, but we get them back changed. They are no longer what they were, but instead are glorified. When the boy gave his small lunch to Jesus, he received it back glorified-- it was able to feed 5,000 people! When we give God our very lives, we receive that life back glorified. Everything we withhold remains unglorified. What things are you holding back from God? What would happen if you gave it to Christ? How can you tell if you are holding something back? What things in your life are not being glorified? How do you think God

will glorify the things in your life that you struggle to give him? How will you begin the process of giving these things to God?

Verses: Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Psalm 51:10-12

Prayer Topics: Transformation, Glory, Reward

Day 5

Thanks to Sylvester Warsaw, Jr for our devotional today

Obedience to God requires being in relationship with Him. It's in our relationship with Him we're taught by Him. Relationships require communication. Because God has given man free will the question becomes whose voice are you listening to. When Adam and Eve wilfully chose to listen to another voice they went against what they were instructed by God and man to this day experience the consequences of their choice. Remember the question God asked them when they hid from Him when He went to visit with them, "Who told you that you were naked," Gen. 3:8-13. Scripture is filled with testimonies of what happens when people wilfully choose to disobey and also obey God's instructions when they claim to be His. In Gen. 22 Abraham's obedience to God was tested with and by the very thing Abraham thought defined him as a person, Issac, the son of promise. Before Gen. 22 account of Abraham's obedience we're told this in Gen. 18:17-19, "And the LORD said, shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed by him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his

children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring Abraham what He has spoken to him.” Because God changes not you need to understand God still speaks today. Our worship of God is our direct response of obedience to that which He has spoken to our hearts. When we gather as a family to worship, our main purpose for gathering is to hear the Spoken Word of God, what Paul calls the foolishness of preaching, 1 Cor. 1:18-31. In John 17:20 we read this, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word.” Jesus tells us in John 10 verses 3-5 that His sheep knows His voice and another they will not follow. When I lived in San Diego, one Sunday I was scheduled to preach in Los Angeles. Before I went to preach I stopped by the hospital because my father had had a knee replacement. I didn’t know which room he was in but I knew the floor he was on. When I got off the elevator I looked to my right and left then I heard his voice and I knew where to go. Like we know our earthly parents’ voice, do you know God’s voice if you claim to be His. It’s in our obedience we learn that faith becomes knowledge and there’s no knowledge without reverence of God. The reverence of God is the beginning of knowledge which can only happen in relationship with Him. Obedience to God requires daily communion with Him. God has a story also and it’s lived and spoken daily by His children called by His name to the nations.