

FEARLESS FAITH
EXPERIENCING GOD EVERY DAY!

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God is Provider!

Genesis 22:1-18

Men's Breakfast

Sermon given on July 21, 2018



Pastor Rick Lancaster

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Opening Comments

- Today we continue a series that comes from the theme from the retreat: **FEARLESS FAITH – Experiencing God every day!!**
- The Men's Life Groups are going through the book Experiencing God by Henry Blackaby – Knowing and doing the will of God
- We come to know God's will by getting to know God better
- Our goal through this series of messages is to help you to know God better so that you can do His will, and do it fearlessly
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to do something radical in our hearts
- **Pray**

Teaching

- Turn to **Genesis 22**
- While you are turning there, I'll give you a little background information
- Abraham was called by God to leave the land of Ur to go to a land that God was going to give to him and his descendants forever
- A land that would later become known as Israel – never known as Palestine – that is a modern name
- God promised Abraham that he would have countless descendants
- But his wife Sarah was barren – God worked a miracle and Sarah conceived and bore a son – Isaac – only that one child
- All of Abraham's hopes resided in the life of that child
- All of God's promises were tied up in the child Isaac
- Then God asks Abraham to do the unthinkable
- **Genesis 22:1-2**
- Just in case it is not clear to you what is saying – telling Abraham to take his son to a certain place, kill him, and burn up his body as an offering to God
- God is testing Abraham – but Abraham doesn't know that
- But Abraham does know God, and so he responds

- **Genesis 22:3-6**

- Abraham's response was immediate
- When you know God's will, when should you do it? Now!
- Abraham didn't wait for clarification or understanding
- He had heard clearly from God what God wanted and his immediate response was to obey
- At some point Isaac sees a problem with the situation

- **Genesis 22:7-8**

- It is hard to say with certainty what Abraham is expecting God to do
- But in Hebrews we see what was in his mind **Hebrews 11:17-19**
By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.
- We can't know what Abraham expected God to do, but we can tell from that he intended to go through with what God told him to do

- **Genesis 22:9**

- We can't be certain how old Isaac was at this point
- Most commentators suggest he was in his teens, others suggest he could have been in his twenties

- **Genesis 22:10-14**

- God never intended to allow Abraham to sacrifice his son
- Abraham was willing – willing to sacrifice everything and anything to God – even his only son
- God brought Abraham right up to the very limit of his faith
- Nothing in his life compared to what God had asked him to do here
- And because he trusted God, Abraham was willing to do the unthinkable – to do something he didn't understand – simply because God had told him to do it

- **Genesis 22:15-18**

- God tested Abraham and he came out the other side of that test purified and blessed
- Before we move on, I want to touch on something
- The place where God brought Abraham was Mount Moriah
- It was here that Solomon would build the temple

- It was here that God did what He almost had Abraham do – He offered His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for the sins of the world **1 John 4:9-10**

In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- As Abraham walked up that mountain, we cannot imagine the anguish in his heart
- Isaac was his hope and future – he was the fulfillment of God’s promise to him – Abraham needed this young man to live
- We cannot know for certain what Abraham was thinking when he said, “God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.”
- Abraham trusted God to provide – and because he did, Abraham was able to do the impossible
- God is provider! Let me ask some questions:
- What does God provide? Everything! **James 1:17-18**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

- All that we have comes from the hand of the Lord
- Job said – the Lord gives – takes away – blessed be...
- God is all-sufficient = He needs nothing, not ever
- I hate to break this to you – you are not God – you are not all-sufficient – and you are not even self-sufficient
- You cannot meet all your needs all the time
- When we think of God providing – too often we turn our minds to material things
- Fearless faith – experiencing God every day is about more than things – it is about all of life
- To walk fearlessly in God’s presence, I need to see Him as provider of everything in my life – that He meets all my needs
- Hope, peace, strength, wisdom, courage, faith, health, love, community
- If I have a need, whatever it is, God is able to meet that need

- How does God provide? He does it through His sovereign creative omnipotence – which means He can do it any way He chooses to, with anyone or anything He chooses to
- When Abraham looked behind him he saw, “a ram caught in the thicket by its horns” – Where did it come from? How did it get there?
- God created the universe out of nothing, He can provide for us the same way
- Does God always provide? Yes! According to His will, purposes, nature, plan, He always provides
- When God provides, is it always with abundance? No, God provides according to His will, plans, and purposes – God provides enough
- God is provider! How do we experience God’s provision?
- Three things to experience the provision of God
- First thing – **Pray**
- If you need something, tell God about it – ask Him to exercise His sovereign creative omnipotence on your behalf
- Right before Jesus gave the us the model for prayer in Sermon on the Mount, He said this **Matthew 6:8**
Your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.
- You were created to be in intimate communion with Almighty God
- The most intimate way of doing that is prayer – talk to Him
- One of the reasons we have needs that go unmet is because it drives us to God in prayer
- Pray to the God who provides and ask Him to meet your needs
- Second thing – **Stay**
- One of the strengths of men is that they are often fixers, problem-solvers
- An unmet need is a problem that needs to be solved
- If I am hungry – I go to Los Primos and get a chipotle chicken burrito – problem solved
- But what do we do if that need is not so easily met?
- Turn to **Philippians 4**
- What if your need centers around one of your children – prodigal, struggling, hurting, or rebellious?

- What if your wife doesn't give you the respect, affection, or intimacy you need?
- What if you don't know how to fix it? What if you can't see the solution? What if nothing you do is working?
- The apostle Paul was a man who understood unmet needs
- **Philippians 4:10**
- The people of Philippi had heard that Paul had needs, but were unable to help him until later – this letter is a response to their sending help
- **Philippians 4:11-12**
- If you don't know what to do, you need to stay where you are
- Paul says that to stay where you are, you need to learn contentment
- The word 'content' comes from a contraction of two Latin words – 'con' = altogether and 'tenere' = to hold
- We get the English word 'contain' from it as well
- Contentment then = to hold all together
- It has the idea of satisfaction, not needing any more than you have
- Paul learned how to be content through having great needs, having those needs met, and then experiencing more great needs
- But he also knew about unmet needs that were never met in his life – his thorn in the flesh – asked God to take it away – God told him, 'No!'
- It is context of your needs that the next verse becomes so powerful
- **Philippians 4:13**
- Only through Christ will you learn to stay where you are
- How do we do that? First, pray!
- Second, stay close to Jesus – His Word - stay in community with other believers
- Pray and stay! – For how long?
- Until you are called to do the third thing – **Obey**
- Until God tells you to do something, you should be doing the last thing He told you to do.
- But when He does speak to you, then it is time for you to obey, and do exactly what God is telling you – even if you don't understand
- Abraham didn't understand why God told him to sacrifice Isaac, but He obeyed, and God did something radical

- Shortly after I was saved, Kelly and I experienced a financial crisis
- >\$60K in credits cards debt – 2 car payments and a mortgage – drowning – every month falling further behind
- Everyone was telling us to file bankruptcy – but God told us ‘No! Trust Me and you will pay back every penny!’
- We prayed, we stayed, and we obeyed, and God kept His word to us
- God was our provider! And through the process taught us to be more content
- God is your provider! Whatever your need is – pray, stay, and obey – and watch God do the impossible **2 Chronicles 16:9**
For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him.
- When I am praying, staying, and obeying – my heart is loyal to God – He is strong on my behalf – working to meet my impossible needs with His sovereign creative omnipotence – Pray, stay, and obey!
- **Prayer**