

Crossroads followHim scripture and Psalms for July 2017

Session I—Genesis 22:1-44

- 1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."
- 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.
- 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.
- 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you."
- 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.
- 7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"
- 8 Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.
- 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.
- 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son.
- 11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
- 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."
- 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.
- 14 So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

Okay, so let's ask the question. Would you have done what Abraham did? Even if you thought for sure you were hearing from God? What does this story tell us about obedience? And following God? How do we make sense of this kind of story?

Psalm 13

¹ How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

Session II—Matthew 10:40-42

40 "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous;

42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple -- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

So what exactly is this reward Jesus is saying the righteous person will receive? What is the "Reward of the Righteous"? Who are the righteous people in your life? In your church? In your family? Would you consider yourself a righteous person?

Psalm 45:10-17

¹⁰ Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;

forget your people and your father's house,

¹¹ and the king will desire your beauty.

Since he is your lord, bow to him;

¹² the people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people ¹³ with all kinds of wealth.

The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;

¹⁴ in many-colored robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.

¹⁵ With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.

¹⁶In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.

¹⁷I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.