

Hebrews 11:17-19

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

Also read:

Genesis 22

Community Group Study 31 Jan 2010

Introduction

In a continuation of Abraham's story, we see Abraham, the father of a multitude, being told by God to sacrifice his only son, whom he loves.

This instance underlines the ultimate authority of God as above question and the essence of Abraham's faith as his willingness to accept God's loving authority.

Tests of our faith are given so that God can bless us with more of Himself, and help us focus on the fact that God, and our relationship with Him, is greater than all His gifts.

Abraham paid a high cost for his relationship with God. He did what seemed to make no sense and in the end it cost him almost nothing, as God bore the cost, but opened the way for a closer walk with God through faith.

Discussion

- >>Was God wrong to demand a human sacrifice?
- >>Why is our relationship and obedience to God more important than anything else?
- >>Does God work against His character? Why does it seem to us that he does?

Explanation

- >>Why did Abraham tell his servants and Isaac that they would be coming back?
- >>What does it mean to pick up our cross and follow Jesus?
- >>In what ways does the sacrifice of Isaac mirror Jesus' sacrifice?

Application

- >>God asks us to pick up our cross and follow Him. How can we live in such a way that we consider ourselves "as good as dead"?
- >>Listen to God. Heed his request for you to obey Him, even if it doesn't make sense.
- >>What do you need to sacrifice for your relationship with God to improve?