

SERMON OUTLINE

'Who by Faith' - 5

Studies in Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11 v8 - 19 & Genesis 22 v1 - 19

Abraham "the father of us all" is the great example 'par excellence' of what it means to live by faith. See Gen 15 v5 - 6 & Rom 4 v16.

Key Text for this study - Heb 11 v17 - 19. The background to this text is Genesis 22. What we see in this part of the story of Abraham's life of faith, is:-

1. THE LIFE OF FAITH BEING TESTED

Note - This would all have been so relevant for these Hebrews believers who were going through times of very real testing.

Key Question - What was this particular test? See Heb 11 v17a & Gen 22 v2. What this command would have meant to Abraham becomes all the more clear when we remember that:-

A. ISAAC WAS THE FOCUS OF ABRAHAM'S LOVE

See v2 - "Take your son - whom you love...."

B. ISAAC WAS THE FOCUS OF ABRAHAM'S HOPES

See v2 - "Take your son - your only son...." All of the covenant promises of God concerning a Saviour to come through whom all the nations would be blessed were to be fulfilled through Isaac. Key Point - there was no other son. It made no sense whatsoever!

Key Question - Why does God test us as Christian believers? What is purpose in it all?

(i) In testing us, God is working something in us

(ii) In testing us, God is proving something to us

(iii) In testing us, God is speaking something through us

2. THE LOGIC OF FAITH BEING APPLIED

Note - Abraham's faith was immediate and complete. See Gen 22 v3 & Heb 11 v17.

Key Question - Why was Abraham able to do this? Key words (Heb 11 v19a) - "Abraham reasoned....." That is, He worked it out in his mind that if God was going to remain faithful to His word then having sacrificed him, God would have to raise Isaac to life. See v19 & Gen 22 v4 - 5.

Note - Because Abraham took God at His word, He knew that whatever happened - God would provide! See Gen 22 v7 - 8. And God did! See Gen 22 v13 - 14. And notice.....

A. WHERE THIS PROVISION WAS MADE

At the place where Abraham was told to go. Note - There is a direct equation between our obedience to God and His provision for us.

B. WHEN THIS PROVISION WAS MADE

At exactly the right time! See Gen 22 v11 - 12.

3. THE BLESSINGS OF FAITH BEING MULTIPLIED

See Gen 22 v15 - 17. These blessings were to come to pass in the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. See Jn 8 v56. Key Question - What did Abraham see?

A. HE SAW SOMETHING OF THE DEATH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

See Gen 22 v2. It was on the mountains of Moriah that the temple would be built - and where God's Son (His divine provision for sin) would be crucified.

B. HE SAW SOMETHING OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE DEAD

See Heb 11 v19