

BRIDGE TO LIFE MINISTRIES

STREAMING WORSHIP HOUR 6/1/2014

THEME: GRADUATION: ABRAHAM ATTENDED A FAITH-BASED SCHOOL/ COLLEGE

SCRIPTURE READING: GEN 22:1-14

College: A building used for educational or religious purpose or a school higher learning including a high school. Some colleges offer 2 or 4 Yrs. offering course in Sciences and Humanities leading to AA or BA degree.

We are exploring faith-based school with life experiences of Abraham who lived in the OT. If we can understand more about his life, that we may better be prepared to handle our lives also. There is a lot to study about Abraham and his spiritual journey **Genesis 11:10 from Ur of the Chaldeans to Haran to Bethel to Egypt then to **Genesis 25:8** as the conclusion of his life in Beersheba. For you Graduates regardless of what school who may have attended may the lessons from Abraham be a life lesson for you.**

Abraham spiritual journey and experiences were marked by four great crises, with each one of these crisis experiences involved a surrender of something or someone he held most dear to his heart.

- A. Leaving country, kindred, and family**
- B. The loss of His nephew Lot who had accompany him to the land of Canaan.**
- C. His abandonment of Ishmael His first-born son from a different mother.**
- D. The willing sacrifice Isaac. his willingness to give up his miracle one from his old and a gift from God.**

Life is a school in which we gain knowledge and experience

God tested Abraham 's sincerity, loyalty and faith. There might have been a feeling of emptiness, barrenness. God needed to send Abraham to a faith-based school or college of life. God gave give Abraham a battery of tests with a final test before he awarded him a diploma and a degree after graduating from the God's faith-based school.

The clear statement that in Genesis 22:1 God the true purpose in this incident Abraham and Isaac. It was to test Abraham before God could release to be the father of God's people and truly blessed him. God was not planning a human sacrifice. He wanted to find out where Abraham heart and loyalty was. The abruptness of God's request surprises us as much as it did to Abraham. Without any further explanation, the request is made in three simple imperatives! TAKE, GO AND SACRIFICE.

I. HE HAD OBEDIENCE WITHOUT ANSWERS: GENESIS 22:1-2 read

What does the Christian do when we hear no answer to our questions? Nothing until the answer becomes clear. In the meantime, we must be obedient.

A. He was obedient in his preparation. Between God's command's as seen in vs. 2 and Abraham's response as seen in vs.3. There was a long dark night. Abraham must have used it to prepare his

heart to respond. The Bible said “early the next morning” vs. 3

B. He was obedient without question Vs. 2

Did Abraham have questions, that night? He sure did. There were dreams of great things because this was his only son he loved vs. 2.

C. Obedient without delay! Vs 3

Early the next morning Abraham got up vs. 3 it is not easy getting up to sad news. Nevertheless, he did! Abraham “cut wood and set out” Vs 3 later he prepared the altar, wood, and knife for sacrifice vs. Genesis 22:6, and 9-10

When God is ready to give an answer, he will, until then, we can only assume we do not need a divine reason, only human faithfulness. We need to begin to realize that God is not limited by our circumstance! He is all powerful and all-knowing Our logic and reasons are not barriers to God’s ability to keep His word. Naked faith comes hard to us; we struggle to believe and to obey.

When Abraham saddled his donkey, cut wood, traveled to Moriah, built the altar, and arranged the wood. There was no answer when he bound his son and laid him on the altar and took up the knife. How far does a person have to go to prove their obedience to God? Until God is convince that our obedience comes from the heart. We must prove it when no answer coming from heaven.

Isaac asked, “Where is the lamb? Vs 7 a lamb was customary sacrifice. Up to this time, there was none.

II. HE HAD CONFIDENCE WITHOUT A SOLUTION VS 8

Abraham said, “God himself will provide vs. 8. He had not seen, but he still had faith. We often say, “Seeing is believing” But here it is not seeing but it is believing! Abraham was able to say, “Though I know not how or when, I know that God will provide!” To this point, God had not yet provided the ram. Yet here is faithful father Abraham confident that God will provide in his own time and way He does! Abraham knew God would come through at the expected time.Vs11-12

God was the one who took care of the results; Abraham only had to obey. Abraham did not need to worry about God’s part; God would take of that. Abraham knew his job was to be ready to give his all if God called for it. Moreover, God called. In addition, Abraham was ready. Am I prepared to give my all and my best for God?

III. HE HAD PERSEVERANCE WITHOUT HOPE VS 14-19

He heard no answer and no solution. Yet he was confident and obedient. Even more, he was no quitter. While he might have felt like quitting as any loving father would. Abraham was the picture of perseverance. “Two of them went on together vs. 8 what perseverance.

His perseverance, confidence and obedience that God will provide, but consider The anguish before the provision. What kept Abraham going? Any father can image the feeling from a human standpoint. But the

key to Abraham's perseverance was that he loved God more than he loved God's promise!

His absolute best possession was on loan from heaven! He was simply entrusted with it. **God knew he could trust his servant. Sometimes we think we have lost all the important things of life until we remember what is essential.**

Faithfulness

SUPPOSE a person went to their boss and said, "Boss, I know I've been doing a sloppy job, but the reason I've been doing a sloppy job is because you haven't given me a promotion. If you would promote me, I wouldn't do a sloppy job. So I tell you what you do, Mr. Boss—you give me that promotion and then you'll see how I can really work!" Not only would that person not receive a promotion, they will be going job hunting. Why?

Because that's not how it works. Christians many times want to give God slop and ask God for blessings. It doesn't work. God wants faithful people—people He can count on.

What are some of our world's present values? I give you four.

A. WELL-BEING

We want to feel good about our selves (self-esteem, self worth) and have a sense of purpose, with goal, plans, etc.

B. SECURITY

Usually defined in terms of job, home, friends, family

C. PROSPERITY

Success, corporate or religious, lots of money etc

D. PROMINENCE OR ACCEPTANCE

How significant others view you/us? Are we well liked-recognition.

As students, we put a premium on rational thinking. In our educational system, everything has to be explained. Facts are foremost; we are developing a group of fact-find young people. If you can not prove it or give explanations then do not believe it. You, our students age children, do not know about faith, about trust in God.

What we cannot see we do not believe. As students and students of the future, you will be faithless, except you can built in to your value system a faith that goes further than feeling. As adult, by ignoring some faith issues, we have made our faith reasonable. We live lives of explanation. We cover up the power of God's supply we have made our faith reasonable

A FATHER WAS trying to get his son not to quit so easily. He said, "Son. you've got to hang in there and not quit. Look at Abraham Lincoln. He did not quit. Look at Thomas Edison. He did not quit. Look at Douglas MacArthur. He did not quit." Then he said, "Look at Elmo McCringle." The son said, "Wait a minute, Dad. Who is Elmo McCringle?"The father said, "See. He quit."Don't throw in the towel when the going gets tough.

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 1. It necessary would I travel to my own Mount Moriah? When God calls me, I am I willing to obey**
- 2. Are my hands open before God? Can He have my possessions? Is my Isaac on the altar? What about my hidden love? What about those**

gratifying emotional feeling? On the other hand, what about my stubborn self-will? Is my future secure?

- 3. Am I willing to let God have control? On the other hand, do I insist upon having my own way at times?**
- 4. When failure seems imminent, do I trust confidently? When no answers, solutions, or hope seems real, do I possess the qualities of obedience, confidence, and perseverance?**
- 5. Do I have intimacy with God necessary to mature?**

Is ours a happy world? No! Why not? I think the answer is that there are too many needs and too little supply or we have too many wants and wants seem to multiply in proportion to our success. The more we get the more we want. It is an endless cycle. If life were fair, even just a little, it would work out that we would be more satisfied with what we have, and satisfaction would multiply in direct proportion to what we receive- But experience has taught us otherwise, life is like that.