

## Saturday, February 17, 2024 - Day 4 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Thank you for suffering for me. I am eternally grateful. Thank you for your gift of salvation. Guide me in the way I should go. Lead me on a journey of growth this season, and along this journey, fill my heart with abounding joy! May I never grow weary of rejoicing in your goodness, and may I never forget your love and sacrifice. Amen.

Read Genesis 22:1-14 (ESV)

**After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 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 of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So, they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So, they went both of them together.**

**When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."**

### Answer the following questions:

Alright! This is one of the most difficult and well-known passages in scripture. We know that through Abram, God has promised that all people on earth will be blessed. God has been testing Abram. He asked him to move without knowing where. He promised him a land that was occupied by another people group. He told Abram and Sarai in their old age that they would have a child. Abram has trusted God and been faithful even when things seemed unbelievable. But this? To ask him to sacrifice his own son? Where is the good in that?

1. Take some time today and reflect on how this passage is foreshadowing the faith and sacrifice of Jesus.
2. How do we see God “provide the lamb” in the story of Abram? How about in the story of Jesus?
3. How did Abram get the wood for the sacrificial fire to its resting place? How did Jesus get the wood for the sacrificial crucifixion to its resting place?
4. Read Hebrews 12:1-3 and reflect on the beauty of what God was accomplishing on your behalf in and through Jesus Christ.

Read Psalm 143

**Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. Therefore, my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah***

**Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD! I have fled to you for refuge. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.**

## Close in Prayer

Father, I thank you and praise you for sending your son into the world. Give me eyes to see the beauty and perfection of Jesus, the spotless lamb who was willingly sacrificed so that I might receive forgiveness and new life in Him. In response to your grace, please help me live a life of faith, which will glorify you each and every day I have here on earth. And help me to lay down my life for others, as Christ did for me. Amen.