

The Family Man

Genesis 22:1-12



Our Life: The Bicycle Wheel

- Our life is like a bicycle wheel where every spoke in the wheel represents different and significant relationships that make up our lives.
- It is easy to make God just another spoke on the wheel when He should be the center hub.
- We are always supposed to love others, but in the context of our primary love for God.
- Sometimes we do what we are supposed to, but it stems from love that is in the wrong order and we do not realize it.

The Test

- What if we were asked to prove that our love for God exceeds anything and anyone?
- The first-time the word 'love' was used in the Bible was in the context of sacrificing a beloved, only son.
- God never requires us to make a human sacrifice.
- Genesis had not been written, so Abraham did not know it was a test.

Give Him Back

- No parent wants to be an Abraham.
- God's greatest gifts are also His greatest tests.
- The moment Abraham was to lead Isaac up the mountain to be sacrificed tells us so much about Abraham because he chose God over anything and anyone else.
- Abraham's willingness to sacrifice Isaac vividly illustrates the first two commandments:
 - We will have no other gods before God
 - We will make no idols in the form of anything; not even in the form of a beloved child.
- In the moment push came to shove, Abraham showed the depth of his commitment to God.

A Jealous God

- When a friend or family member is placed so high, that they consistently have control of our mindset and emotions, that is an indication that God is starting to lose His spot on the throne in our hearts.
- We love others best, when we love God most.
- We have a tendency to place all of our happiness, well-being, and mental state in the hands of others without asking them.
- The supreme act of love for your spouse, family, friends, or anyone else is to set your heart on Christ.
- Our hope in life should be founded solely in the sacrifice of God's one and only Son and not in the successes, failures, expectations, approval, or achievements of anyone else.

Conclusion

- What God asked of Abraham, but did not finally require, He did Himself for the love of you and me.
- You've been asked to choose God, to place Him on the throne in your heart, but know this: He has already chosen you.
- “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”