



Lesson 14 – The Test of Faith

Based on Genesis 16, 17:18-20; 21:1-14, 22:1-19

Abraham had accepted without question the promise of a son, but he did not wait for God to fulfill His word in His own time and way. A delay was permitted, to test his faith in the power of God.

- 1) What suggestion was made to Abraham?

Genesis 16:1-2 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was _____. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain _____ by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

Polygamy had become so widespread that it had ceased to be regarded as a sin, but it was no less a violation of the law of God and was fatal to the sacredness and peace of the family relation. Abraham's marriage with Hagar resulted in evil, not only to his own household, but to future generations.

- 2) How did Hagar's attitude change toward Sarah?

Genesis 16:4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was _____ in her eyes.

Flattered with the honor of her new position as Abraham's wife, and hoping to be the mother of the great nation to descend from him, Hagar became proud and boastful, and treated her mistress with contempt. Mutual jealousies disturbed the peace of the once happy home. Forced to listen to the complaints of both, Abraham vainly endeavored to restore harmony.

- 3) What did Sarah want to do?

Genesis 16:6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt _____ with her, she fled from her face.

- 4) What did God do for Hagar?

Genesis 16:7-8 And the angel of the LORD _____ her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur. And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence comest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I _____ from the face of my mistress Sarai.

Genesis 16:9-10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, _____ to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will _____ thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

- 5) What was she to name the child?

Genesis 16:11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name _____; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

- 6) What did God remind Abraham of when he was **99 Years old**?

Genesis 17:15-16 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but _____ shall her name be. And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of _____; kings of people shall be of her.

Abraham did not yet understand the promise. His mind at once turned to Ishmael, clinging to the belief that through him God's gracious purposes were to be accomplished.

- 7) What did Abraham reply with?

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said unto God, O that _____ might live before thee!

- 8) God said:

Genesis 17:20-21 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have _____ him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation. But my _____ will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.



The birth of Isaac, bringing, after a lifelong waiting, the fulfillment of their dearest hopes, filled the tents of Abraham and Sarah with gladness. But to Hagar this event was the overthrow of her fondly cherished ambitions. Ishmael, now a youth, had been regarded by all in the encampment as the heir of Abraham's wealth and the inheritor of the blessings promised to his descendants. Now he was suddenly set aside; and in their disappointment, mother and son hated the child of Sarah. The general rejoicing increased their jealousy, until Ishmael dared openly to mock the heir of God's promise.

- 9) Sarah had had enough, what did she ask Abraham?

Genesis 21:9-10 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, which she had born unto Abraham, mocking. Wherefore she said unto Abraham, _____ this bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, even with Isaac.

- 10) Was Abraham happy about this?

Genesis 21:11 And the thing was very _____ in Abraham's sight because of his son.

- 11) Abraham prayed for guidance, what did God tell him?

Genesis 21:12-13 And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, _____ unto her voice; for in Isaac shall thy seed be called. And also of the son of the bondwoman will I make a _____, because he is thy seed.

The angel gave him the consoling promise that though separated from his father's home, Ishmael should not be forsaken by God; his life should be preserved, and he should become the father of a great nation. Abraham obeyed the angel's word, but it was not without keen suffering. The father's heart was heavy with unspoken grief as he sent away Hagar and his son.

Both Abraham and Sarah distrusted the power of God, and it was this error that led to the marriage with Hagar. God had called Abraham to be the father of the faithful, and his life was to stand as an example of faith to succeeding generations. But his faith had not been perfect. He had shown distrust of God in concealing the fact that Sarah was his wife, and again in his marriage with Hagar. That he might reach the highest standard, God subjected him to another test, the closest which man was ever called to endure.

- 12) What did God ask of him?

Genesis 22:2-3 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a _____ upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and _____ unto the place of which God had told him.

At the command of God, he had sent away his son Ishmael. And now, when the child so long desired was entering upon manhood, and the patriarch seemed able to discern the fruition of his hopes, a trial greater than all others was before him.

He was commanded to shed the blood of that son with his own hand. It seemed to him a fearful impossibility.

For a moment the father looked upon the dear face of his son, then turned tremblingly away. He went to the side of Sarah, who was also sleeping. Should he awaken her, that she might once more embrace her child? Should he tell her of God's requirement? He longed to unburden his heart to her and share with her this terrible responsibility; but he was restrained by the fear that she might hinder him. Isaac was her joy and pride; her life was bound up in him, and the mother's love might refuse the sacrifice.



13) What did they do?

Genesis 22:5-6 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and _____, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon _____ his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Side by side the father and the son journeyed in silence. The patriarch, pondering his heavy secret, had no heart for words. His thoughts were of the proud, fond mother, and the day when he should return to her alone. Well he knew that the knife would pierce her heart when it took the life of her son.

14) What did Paul record about Abraham?

Hebrews 11:17-19 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his _____ son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a _____.

None but God could understand how great was the father's sacrifice in yielding up his son to death; Abraham desired that none but God should witness the parting scene.

15) As Abraham was preparing for the awful deed, what did Isaac ask?

Genesis 22:7-8 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the _____ and the _____: but where is the _____ for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

The wood was laid upon Isaac, the one to be offered, the father took the knife and the fire, and together they ascended toward the mountain summit.

16) Was Abraham faithful to God?

Genesis 22:9-10 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and _____ Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to _____ his son.

17) ...And then God...

Genesis 22:11-12 And the angel of the LORD _____ unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou _____ God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

It was with terror and amazement that Isaac learned his fate, but he offered no resistance. He could have escaped his doom, had he chosen to do so; the grief-stricken old man, exhausted with the struggle of those three terrible days, could not have opposed the will of the vigorous youth. But Isaac had been trained from childhood to ready, trusting obedience, and as the purpose of God was opened before him, he yielded a willing submission. He was a sharer in Abraham's faith, and he felt that he was honored in being called to give his life as an offering to God.

18) What was given in place of Isaac?

Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a _____ caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

19) How did God reward Abraham's faith?

Genesis 22:16-17 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast _____ thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;



Genesis 22:18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be _____; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Abraham was human; his passions and attachments were like ours; but he did not stop to question how the promise could be fulfilled if Isaac should be slain. He did not stay to reason with his aching heart. He knew that God is just and righteous in all His requirements, and he obeyed the command to the very letter.

20) What did James say about Abraham?

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the _____ of God.

21) ...and Paul?

Galatians 3:7 Know ye therefore that they which are of _____, the same are the children of Abraham.

22) What question did James leave us with?

James 2:21-22 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by _____ was _____ made perfect?

Genuine faith will be manifest in obedience.

23) What question did Jesus ask the unbelieving Jews?

John 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the _____ of Abraham.

24) What did John put into his first epistle?

1 John 5:3 For this is the _____ of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

It was to impress Abraham's mind with the reality of the gospel, as well as to test his faith, that God commanded him to slay his son. The agony which he endured during the dark days of that fearful trial was permitted that he might understand from his own experience something of the greatness of the sacrifice made by the infinite God for man's redemption. No other test could have caused Abraham such torture of soul as did the offering of his son. God gave His Son to a death of agony and shame.

25) What agony did Our Father in heaven endure?

Romans 8:32 He that spared not his own Son, but _____ him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The sacrifice required of Abraham was not alone for his own good, nor solely for the benefit of succeeding generations; but it was also for the instruction of the sinless intelligences of heaven and of other worlds. The field of the controversy between Christ and Satan, the field on which the plan of redemption is wrought out, is the lesson book of the universe.

Can you see that Abraham held nothing back?

Would you like God to be called the friend of God?

When is the time to do what you know is right?