

The Names of God #6
Jehovah Jireh – The Lord Provides
Gen 22:1-19

Introduction:

1. One of the favorite words of society today is “moderate”
 - a. Politicians love to be labeled “moderate”
 - b. Moderate means not going to an extreme – not going too far to one extreme or to the other
 - c. Moderate is not a bad word, and moderation is not a bad concept
 - d. There are some things Christians ought to be moderate in
2. But there are also things that God wants us to be extreme about
3. We are to be extreme in the areas of surrender and faith
 - a. Tonight we see an example of extreme surrender and extreme faith
 - b. Those whom God has used in the past have been called extremists
4. Amy Carmichael had an extreme faith. She sailed for India in 1895
 - a. She never went back home again before her death in 1951
 - b. She risked her life time after time to save little girls who had been sold by poverty stricken parents to temples to be used as temple prostitutes. Risking her own life, she would rescue these girls, and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.
 - c. She never solicited funds, she never borrowed money, but God supplied all her needs.
 - d. She was often criticized as an extremist - not everyone agreed with what she was doing. She trusted God to take care of her
5. John Patton was missionary to south Pacific cannibals in the late 1800s
 - a. His parents discouraged him and his pastor said, “You are being too extreme. You will throw your life away among the cannibals.”
 - c. Patton answered his pastor. “I have but once to die and I am content to leave the time and means in the hand of God.”
 - d. An old man in his church in Scotland ridiculed and belittled Patton. “You will be eaten by cannibals.” Patton replied, “Mr. Dickson, you are up in years now and soon will be laid in the grave and there to be eaten by worms. I confess to you if I can but live and die honoring the Lord Jesus Christ it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by cannibals or by worms. In the great resurrection day, my body will rise, fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.
 - e. God used John Patton to bring thousands of cannibals to Christ.
 - f. John Patton was a radical when it came to serving God and was criticized as being an extremist.
7. Abraham is a biblical character who exhibited extreme faith
 - a. You may think that extreme faith is for young folks
 - b. You may think that older folks just sit back with a “play it safe” faith
 - c. Remember that Abraham was over 100 yrs old when these events occur

I. God's Command to Sacrifice – vs 1-2

1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 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 burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

A. Whom to Sacrifice – vs 2

1. The Lone Son – “thine only son Isaac”
 - a) *This underscores the magnitude of the sacrifice*
 - b) *When Isaac is gone, there will be no son left*
 - c) *Abraham is being asked to give his all*
 - d) *It is true that Abraham does have another son - Ishmael*
 - (1) He is not the son of Abraham and Sarah - he is not the son of promise
 - (2) We count Ishmaels but God counts Isaacs
 - (3) Preachers often count a lot of decisions, but God counts salvations
2. The Loved Son – “whom thou lovest”
 - a) *Abraham is tested to see if he loves God more than Isaac*
 - b) *Abraham is asked to do more than just send Isaac away, - kill Isaac*
 - c) *God wants your heart because if He has your heart, then He has all of you*

B. When to Sacrifice – vs 2 – “now”

1. Without warning God told Abraham to sacrifice his son - do it now
2. Abraham had been enjoying watching Isaac grow up from boyhood to manhood and then comes this command from God
3. This suddenness tells us that we better be at our spiritual best, we don't know when some large test will come into our lives - Eph 6:11
 - a) *Testing may come from God suddenly*
 - b) *Tempting may come from the devil suddenly*
4. Failure in testing or temptation may come because we have neglected our spiritual health
 - a) *Firefighters constantly keep up their equipment so they will be ready when a fire suddenly happens*
 - b) *Vicky had safety training so she would be prepared*
 - c) *Emergency rooms are well stocked and staffed for emergencies*
5. "Now" comes without warning -it does not need to come without readiness

C. Where to Sacrifice – vs 2

2 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 burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

1. The land of "Moriah" included a chain of mountains near Jerusalem.
2. Many of the older Bible commentators taught that the "Moriah" was Calvary
3. Others suggest Moriah is the very place Solomon built the Temple!
4. Vs 9 - The place was Mt. Moriah
 - a) *The location was so important that God made sure that Abraham knew exactly where to go to sacrifice*
 - b) *Missing the spot meant missing the ram that was to be provided*
 - c) *Missing the spot meant obscuring the typology*
 - d) *Full obedience meant going to the right location*
5. Abraham sacrificed his son in the same place that God would sacrifice His Son

II. Abraham's Compliance in Sacrificing – vs 3-10

A. Problems for Compliance

1. Affection for Isaac
 - a) *Affection for Isaac could hinder the obedience of Abraham*
 - b) *Our affections often hinder our obedience of Christ*
2. Lack of an explanation
 - a) *God did not explain this command to Abraham*
 - b) *It takes strong faith to obey God when there is no explanation*
3. Canceling of the Promises
 - a) *Sacrificing Isaac would cancel out the promises made to Abraham*
 - b) *Isaac was the promised son*
 - c) *Obeying God's commands when they result in loss is difficult*
4. Seeming cruelty
 - a) *Command to sacrifice Isaac seemed cruel – It would cause great suffering*
 - b) *What heartache this would cause Abraham and Sarah*
5. Reputation of God
 - a) *How could Abraham explain this to his pagan neighbors?*
 - b) *He had told them about a God who was different from theirs*
 - c) *Now God demands human sacrifice like the pagan gods*
 - d) *Strong faith gives priority to God's precepts, not the problems*

B. Promptness in Compliance – vs 3

3 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 went unto the place of which God had told him.

1. Rising early indicates something needs immediate attention! Something important!
2. Ps 119:60 *I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.*
3. Great believers of the past were characterized by rising early to obey

C. Perseverance in the Compliance – 4

4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

1. The distance was enough that it required 3 days to get there
 - a) *Abraham had to keep his eye on the goal for that long*
 - b) *This perseverance is outstanding*
 - c) *There was more than a moment of enthusiasm - slowly passing days*
 - d) *It takes commitment to teach week after week for 20 yrs*
2. Truly, Calvary is the lens thru which Gen 22 must be viewed!

D. Perplexity in the Compliance – vs 7-8

1. The Asking – vs 7

7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

- a) *Isaac had been duly instructed about sacrifices.*
- b) *His knowledge that the lamb was missing exceeds the knowledge of many folk today.*
- c) *A good number of folk would not know that the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is missing in many sermons and in many denominations.*
- d) *But Isaac knew. Fire and wood are not enough.*
- e) *You must have the Lamb, Jesus Christ, for salvation.*

2. The Answering – vs 8

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

- a) *God would provide the lamb – man did not provide himself a Savior*
- b) *God would provide Himself a lamb*
- c) *God Himself will be the provided lamb*
 - (1) God left heaven and came to earth
 - (2) God died for lost sinners

E. Proof in the Compliance – vs 10

10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

- 1. The sacrificing of Isaac never took place for God intervened and provided a substitute
- 2. But God did not intervene until the last second, so that Abraham could prove beyond a shadow of a doubt his absolute compliance to the will of God.
- 3. Abraham was just seconds from plunging the knife into Isaac when God intervened through the angel.
- 4. The deed was as good as done at this point and God accepted it.

III. God's Change in Sacrificing – vs 10-14

A. Prevention in the Change – vs 12

12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

- 1. More welcomed words could not have been heard by Abraham
- 2. And note that this command came in the place of obedience.
- 3. Abraham was able to answer "*Here am I*" to the angel's call.
- 4. "*Here am I where you have ordered me.*"
- 5. If we want the blessings of God, we must be in the place of obedience.
- 6. If we want Divine providence working in our favor, we must be in the place of obedience.

B. Praise in the Change – vs 12

- 1. I know that thou fearest God
- 2. The proof of true fear of God is seen in our complete subjection to His sovereign will
- 3. It is easy to talk about how much we love the Lord, how are we when it comes to service?
- 4. Didn't God know that Abraham feared Him?
 - a) *Of course he did or God is not omniscient*
 - b) *It was for our sakes that God made the discovery of Abraham's obedience*
- 5. Do our lives offer much proof that we love God?
 - a) *Does our giving prove that we love God?*
 - b) *Does our church attendance prove that we love God?*
 - c) *Does our interest in the Word of God prove that we love God?*
- 6. The world today wants the praise of men, and cares little for the praise of God

c. Provision for the Change – vs 13

13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram 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.

1. Substitution - The ram became a substitute for Isaac
 - a) *The ram died in the place of Isaac*
 - b) *Substitution is important in the gospel*
 - (1) Rom 5:6 - "Christ died for the ungodly"
 - (2) Rom 5:8 - "Christ died for us"
 - (3) 1Pet 3:18 - "Christ suffered for sins, the just for the unjust"
2. The ram was near – just behind Abraham
 - a) *He could easily see and quickly obtain the ram*
 - b) *Christ is near in the sense that He came to this world to die for us here*
3. The ram was free – It cost Abraham nothing
 - a) *Salvation is also free*
 - b) *Ro 3:24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*
 - c) *Re 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*
4. The ram was appropriated
 - a) *Abraham had to take the ram before it could be a substitute for Isaac*
 - b) *Christ is offered to sinners, but they must receive him*

iv. Jehovah – Jireh is a Commemoration – Gen 22:14

14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.*

1. This name commemorated a great deliverance
2. Here was a constant reminder of the wonderful grace of God who had provided deliverance
3. Now that the ordeal was all over Abraham could see God's glorious purpose
4. Abraham understood that Isaac was delivered through the death of a substitute
5. Abraham saw the provision of the innocent for the guilty

v. "God Will Provide" Was on Abraham's Mind Before Vs 14

A. "Where is the Lamb?" – Asked Isaac – vs 7

B. "God Will Provide Himself a Lamb"

8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

- "Provide" in vs 8 is the same provide in "Jehovah-Jireh"
 1. God Would Provide the Lamb - "God will provide...a lamb"
 - a) *Jesus Christ was provided by God to be the Savior*
 - (1) The Biblical plan of salvation was God's idea
 - (2) Man always tried to save himself
 - b) *Man could not provide himself a Savior*
 - c) *All man provided were sinners needing to be saved*

VI. The Picture

- Abraham's offering his son Isaac is a picture of God offering His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as a sacrifice for man.
 1. ⇒ Abraham was asked to give up his most cherished possession to God; God has given up His most cherished possession to man
 2. ⇒ Abraham was asked to sacrifice his own son for God; God has sacrificed His only Son for man ([Genesis 22:2](#), cp. [John 3:16](#); [Romans 8:32](#)).
 3. ⇒ Abraham believed that God would raise up his son, if need be; God did raise up His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ
 4. ⇒ Isaac was apparently willing to obey God and be sacrificed, for there is no evidence of a struggle. Isaac was obedient to death even as Christ was obedient to death ([Phil. 2:5-8](#)).
 5. ⇒ The ram was provided as a substitute for Isaac; the lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, was provided as a substitute for his people
 6. ⇒ Isaac carried the wood upon which he was to be laid as a sacrifice; Christ carried the cross upon which He was to be hung as the sacrifice for sin
 7. ⇒ Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice upon Mt. Moriah, the very mountain upon which Jerusalem was built ([2 Chron. 3:1](#)); God offered up Christ on Calvary, right outside Jerusalem, upon the very same mountain ridge or range where Isaac was offered ([Genesis 22:2](#)). (Note: this tells us why God had Abraham travel three days to offer Isaac on Mt. Moriah. The offering of Isaac was planned by God to be a type of God's offering of Christ.
 8. ⇒ Abraham received the great joy of God's promise because he willingly sacrificed his will to God's will; Jesus Christ is to experience the fulfillment of His joy because He totally surrendered His will to God's will

Conclusion:

1. We need extreme faith like Abraham had
2. Thank God that He provided a means for our salvation
3. When you are needy – remember Jehovah-Jireh