



A YEAR  
*with*  
GOD  
*Daily Devotional*

DAY 19



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# DAY NINETEEN

*Genesis 22 - 24*

## *God Will Provide the Lamb*

There are chapters in the Bible that you read differently depending on where you are in life. Genesis 22 is one of them. When you are young and faith is easy, it reads like a story about obedience. When you have loved someone so fiercely that losing them would undo you - when you understand what it means to hold something as your whole future in your arms - it reads like something else entirely.

It reads like the most costly thing a human being has ever been asked to do. And it reads like the most costly thing God has ever done.

***Genesis 22 is not just a story about Abraham. It is a shadow of the Father who would one day walk up a different hill with His own Son. The shadow is so precise it takes your breath away.***

After these things, God tested Abraham. After twenty-five years of waiting for the promise. After the laughter of disbelief becoming the laughter of joy. After holding Isaac in his arms and watching him grow. After all of that - God speaks.

*“Take your son, your only son, whom you love - Isaac -and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering.”*

**- Genesis 22:2**

Notice the way God describes Isaac. Not just “your son.” Your son. Your only son. Whom you love. God names the cost before He names the command. He is not unaware of what He is asking. He knows exactly what this will cost Abraham. And He asks anyway.

*- God has never asked anything of you without knowing what it will cost you. His commands are not careless.*

Abraham rises early. Early. He doesn't delay. He doesn't wait for a second word. He saddles his donkey and splits the wood and takes his son and goes. Three days of walking with the thing God has asked for walking beside him, calling him father, not yet knowing. On the third day - the third day, mark that - Abraham sees the place in the distance. He tells his servants to wait. And then he says the words that have stopped theologians in their tracks for centuries:

*“We will worship and then we will come back to you.”*

***-Genesis 22:5***

We will come back. Both of us. The writer of Hebrews tells us what Abraham was thinking: he believed God could raise the dead. He did not know how the story would end, but he knew who was telling it. He believed the God who gave him the son could restore the son. So he went up the mountain with both hands open.

***The most dangerous and the most powerful place to stand is with open hands before God. Open hands can receive everything. Closed hands can hold nothing new.***

Isaac asks the question that will echo through all of Scripture: “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb?” And Abraham answers with a sentence that becomes a prophecy, a promise, and a name for God all at once: “God himself will provide the lamb.”

He does not yet know how. He is saying it by faith. And then he builds the altar, lays the wood, binds his son, raises the knife - and the angel calls his name twice. Abraham. Abraham. Stop. And there in the thicket is a ram, caught by its horns. A substitute. A life given in place of another.

*“So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, 'On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.'”*

**- Genesis 22:14**

***Jehovah Jireh. The Lord will provide. But this story is not finished in Genesis 22. That same mountain -Moriah - is the mountain where Solomon will build the temple. It is the mountain outside whose walls, a thousand years later, another Father will not stop the knife. Because this time, the Son is the Lamb. And no angel will call the name twice.***

What Abraham experienced as a test, God experienced as a reality. The ram in the thicket was a picture of what was coming. The obedience of Abraham on that mountain was a shadow of the obedience of the Son on another. Read Genesis 22 slowly. Let it

open into the cross. They are the same story, told in two moments of history separated by two thousand years.

Chapter 23 is quieter but no less significant. Sarah dies and Abraham buys a burial place - the cave of Machpelah - paying full price rather than accepting it as a gift. It is the first piece of the promised land that Abraham actually owns. A grave. A place for the dead. And yet it is a statement of faith: we are staying. This land belongs to us and to our children, and our bones will rest in it until the promise is fully given.

*- Sometimes the most prophetic thing you can do is put down roots in the very ground God promised you, even when the only way you can afford it is to buy a grave.*

Chapter 24 is one of the longest and most beautifully written chapters in Genesis - the servant of Abraham going to find a wife for Isaac, praying at the well, watching God answer before he has finished praying. Rebekah appears. She gives water to the servant and to all ten of his camels - watering ten camels is not a small act, it is an extraordinary one - and the servant watches in silence to see whether God has made his journey successful.

***God was already answering while the servant was still praying. He is often already moving before we have finished asking. The answer is in motion before the words leave your mouth.***

Rebekah says yes. She goes. She rides across the desert toward a man she has never met, who has been waiting and praying in a field at evening. They see each other for the first time. Isaac brings her into his mother's tent and he loves her. And he is comforted after his mother's death.

*- God's provision for grief often arrives on a camel, in the form of something you could not have engineered yourself, at exactly the right moment.*

***Speak this over yourself today:***

*God Himself will provide the lamb.*

*What He asks me to release, He is able to restore.*

*He was already answering before I finished asking.*

*Jehovah Jireh - the Lord is my provider.*

**TOMORROW - Day 20 Genesis 25-26**

*The promise passes from Abraham to Isaac. And Isaac makes the same mistake his father made - twice. But God keeps showing up anyway. Come back tomorrow.*

*Day 19 of 365*



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