



Discussion Questions • Abbotsford

Title of Sermon: The Test

Passage: Genesis 22:1-14 NIV

Intro -

1. Have you ever been caught acting in a way that is contrary to what you said you would do? What happened? Were you embarrassed? (If you don't want to share your own example, share one you witnessed in another. Just please leave names out).
2. What is the worst test you can remember?
3. How do you feel about the idea that God tests his people (Deuteronomy 13:1-4 or Genesis 22:1)? How is this different from tempting them, which the Bible says God doesn't do (James 1:13-15)? What is God's goal in his tests?

Sermon Points -

1. Genuine Faith is Active
 - a. Is someone truly saved if they merely profess faith in Jesus, but don't follow it up with their actions? How does James 2:14-26 address this question (and how does James use this story in Genesis 22 as evidence for his point)?
 - b. If genuine faith is active, how can we help those whose professions don't match their practice to change?
 - c. How would you have responded to the call of God given to Abraham in Genesis 22? Why would you have responded that way?
2. Genuine Faith is Motivated by God's Character
 - a. Why is Abraham so confident that he will return to the bottom of the mountain together with his son in Genesis 22:5? What does he expect God to do (see Hebrews 11:17-19)?
 - b. How has your experience with God in your life driven you to greater trust in him? Has it driven you to less trust? If so, why?
 - c. If knowing God more makes us trust him more, how do we know him more? What kinds of things foster that knowledge? What barriers stand in the way of us doing them?
3. Genuine Faith is Persevering
 - a. What are the reasons that people turn away from following God's will in their lives?
 - b. In Luke 8:4-15, Jesus tells a story emphasizing the need for perseverance in following the word of the Lord. When you read that story, what kinds of things does *Jesus* say stop people from following God?



- c. What kinds of things help us continue following God in our lives?
4. Genuine Faith is Impossible
- a. How many foreshadows to the story of Jesus can you see in this passage?
 - b. How does the knowledge that Jesus was the true and better Isaac whom God did not spare, but instead killed as the crown-thorned sacrifice for the faithless encourage you?

Wrap Up and Prayer

From your discussion, what resonated with you individually or as a group? Was there anything not discussed that stuck out to you from the sermon? Pray for each other along with other requests.

Benediction - Romans 11:33, 36 NIV

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."