

HEROES OF FAITH

Lesson 4 | THE GREAT TEST OF FAITH

TEXT: Gen. 15:1-6; 22:2; Heb. 1:17-18

INTRODUCTION:

- A. A DRAMATIC AND TOUCHING STORY - INSPIRING.
- B. INVOLVES A GREAT TEST OF FAITH.

I. DEFINITIONS:

- A. TEST: "a measure of trial; specifically, subjection to conditions that show the real character of a person or thing in a certain particular."
- B. FAITH: "confidence and conviction based on dependable and reliable testimony."
- C. TESTS OF FAITH: "devices of deity by which man's devotion to God is gauged"
- D. MORAL COMMANDS: "that which is right in itself; matters which commend themselves to all good people as right in the nature of things.
- E. POSITIVE COMMANDS: "signifies a type of command that is peremptory, arbitrary and absolute originating in the will of God and right because of the authority which promulgates it." God said so!
 - 1. Commands in which we are unable to see any connection between that which is required and the blessing which is dependent thereon, i.e. Naaman.
 - 2. Command which are of such a nature that the duties imposed are contrary to the natural feelings, distasteful and obnoxious, ie. Jonah.
 - 3. Commands that necessitate the doing of things which, but for the fact that God commanded them would be positively wrong, ie. Abraham.

II. TO KEEP HIS PROMISE OF Gen. 12:3 IT WAS NECESSARY:

- A. TO GIVE ABRAHAM NUMEROUS POSTERITY(Gen. 15:6).
- B. TO KEEP THEM SEPARATE FROM OTHER PEOPLE(Eph. 2:11-12).
- C. TO GIVE THEM A LAND IN WHICH TO DEVELOP(Gen. 15:8).
- D. FOR THEM TO HAVE A LAW - MOSES(Ex. 19:5-6; 24:6-8).
- E. MOST IMPORTANT - NECESSARY TO HAVE A SON!(Gen. 15:4-6; 21:12).

III. ABRAHAM'S FAITH IS TESTED(Gen. 22:1-2).

- A. HE BELIEVED GOD, FAITH PERFECTED IN WORKS(James 2:20-23).
- B. OBEDIENCE WAS PROMPT(Gen. 22:3; Psa. 119:60). NO DOUBT.
- C. THE EXTENT OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH(Gen. 22:4-5).
 - 1. By faith Abraham offered Isaac(Heb. 11:17-19).
 - a. His only begotten son(vs. 17). Compare John 3:16.
 - b. The one of promise(Gen. 22:15-16; 21:12).
 - c. Abraham believed God could raise Isaac(Heb. 11:19).
 - 2. By faith Abraham did what God told him to do.
 - a. Faith comes by hearing(Rom. 10:17).
 - b. Faith alone cannot stand(James 2:20-24).

CONCLUSION: HOW DOES YOUR FAITH MEASURE?