

Easter Sunday

A Faith that Saves

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Eric Northrup / April 17, 2022

Genesis 22:1-18 “After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, ‘Here I am.’² He said, ‘Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.’³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar.⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, ‘Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.’⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac, his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together.⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ He said, ‘Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?’⁸ Abraham said, ‘God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’ So they went both of them together.⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son.¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, ‘Abraham, Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’¹² He said, ‘Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.’¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, ‘The Lord will provide;’ as it is said to this day, ‘On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.’¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven¹⁶ and said, ‘By Myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son,¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.’”

This story is one of the closest representations that we have in the Bible of what God, the Father, has done for us in Jesus Christ. This story is God seeing first hand, His creation go through the pain and hardship of putting to death his one and only son. This unbelievable act of obedience typifies the level of sacrifice that God went through with Jesus. However, He didn't stop...He went through with the plan.

The Lord provided a Ram as the sacrifice. Notice it wasn't a lamb.

1. Jesus is our pure and spotless lamb.

That's why John in seeing Jesus says, "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

2. Jesus was God's one and only Son.

Full of obedience, truth, there was no deceit in His mouth and He did not sin. He perfectly obeyed even death on the cross.

3. Jesus' purpose was to atone our sins.

God hates sin. His anger, His wrath, His face is set against it for the very essence of sin is in opposition to God's purpose for our lives and more importantly, sin is a direct attack on His inconceivable holiness for in Him there is no imperfection, evil, or corruption.

It is in this holiness and righteousness of God that demands blood, yes a sinless life, to be shed as the consequence of sin.

Romans 6:26a “For the wages of sin is death...”

When atonement is made for sin, it's by the shedding of blood a person's sins are “covered”...paid in full and in return they are forgiven and the relationship restored.

Hebrews 9:22 “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”

Luke 24:1-9 “But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. ⁵ And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, ‘Why do you seek the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here, but has risen. Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.’ ⁸ And they remembered His words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.”

John 20:24-29 “Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.’ ²⁶ Eight days later, His disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand, and place it in My side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.’ ²⁸ Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ²⁹ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’”

Romans 4:20-24 “No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised. ²² That is why his faith was ‘counted to him as righteousness.’ ²³ But the words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in Him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord.”

God is offering you a free gift of salvation with a heavy cost. All you have to do is receive the free gift! You don't have to clean yourself up! You don't have to pay off debt. Here and now, you too can receive this gift!

John 11:25-26 “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’”