

# Expecting to Obey

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*Genesis 22:1-19*

## INTRODUCTION

- A. “Obedience” is far from a popular word.
  - 1. Teens seldom listen to parents.
  - 2. We don’t do the speed limit.
- B. Because obedience is far from popular, we don’t know how to obey God.
- C. Abraham teaches us about obedience.

## GOD EXPECTS HIS CHILDREN TO OBEY, vv 1-2

- A. God tested Abraham, v 1.
  - 1. God’s testing had a purpose.
    - a. God wanted to see if Abraham really had what it takes.
    - b. He wanted to mold Abraham into the “father of the faithful.”
  - 2. But, Abraham did not know that he was being tested.
- B. God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, v 2.
  - 1. God’s instruction consisted of three simple imperative—take, go, & offer.
  - 2. But, those words formed the word of God Abraham needed to hear.
- C. God has revealed his will for us in Scripture.
  - 1. God has always expected total obedience (Dt 26:16).
  - 2. Jesus taught his disciples to obey (Mt 28:20).

## GOD’S CHILDREN EXPECT TO OBEY, vv 3-10

- A. Abraham never questioned.
  - 1. He got up early in the morning, v 3.
  - 2. He cut wood, v 3.
  - 3. He traveled three days, v 4.
  - 4. Abraham expected to do everything God had said.
- B. Abraham & Isaac went to worship.
  - 1. Abraham told the young men to stay there, v 5—he didn’t want them to see him sacrifice Isaac.
  - 2. Abraham told them that he & Isaac would worship and return, v 5—he wasn’t yet ready to tell the men what he was about to do.
  - 3. Abraham & Isaac went together, vv 6-8.
    - a. Isaac asked Abraham, “Where is the lamb for sacrifice?”
    - b. Abraham said, “God will provide.”
      - 1) This does foreshadow the conclusion.
      - 2) But, Abraham doesn’t know the outcome—he isn’t yet ready to tell his son what is about to happen.
- C. Abraham fully obeyed, vv 9-10.
  - 1. Abraham built an altar.
  - 2. He placed his son upon that altar.
  - 3. Abraham attempted to slay Isaac.
- D. Abraham was going to obey in spite of the consequences.

1. Abraham's obedience would have had consequences.
  - a. His son would have been killed.
  - b. Sarah might never have forgiven him.
  - c. People would think him strange.
2. Our obedience, too, might have adverse consequences.
  - a. People may think we're strange.
  - b. Our families may turn their backs on us, but there are some things more important than family (Lk 8:21).

## **GOD BLESSES HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY OBEY, vv 11-18**

- A. Abraham does not slay his son, vv 11-14.
  1. The Angel of the LORD told Abraham not to slay Isaac.
  2. Abraham saw a ram & offered it instead.
- B. The LORD blessed Abraham, vv 5-18.
  1. God blessed Abraham because he did not withhold his only son from him, v 16.
  2. God would greatly multiply Abraham's descendants, v 17.
  3. Through Abraham, all families on earth would be blessed, v 18.
- C. God blesses us today when we obey.
  1. Lk 11:28.
  2. Rv 22:7.

## **CONCLUSION**

- A. God will bless us if we obey.
- B. Will you obey God this day?