



THE MESSENGER

MAY 1, 2022

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBA

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays on Zoom, 10
Friday, 12:30, Fayette Mall
food court

Saturday, 10, Panera
(Georgetown)

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing

March 4, 7:30

Address and Contact

University Heights Church of
Christ
445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,
KY 40508
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ALL THE WAY

The account in Genesis 22 of God telling Abraham to offer his son as a burnt offering is one of the most remarkable stories in the Bible. I always come away from the account with questions. Although answers to most of those questions are unavailable, the story remains instructive, particularly regarding the nature of faith. The story involves three main characters: God, Isaac, and Abraham. Although I am using the word story, there is nothing fictional about it. It happened just as recorded in God's holy word. But here are some things I wonder about.

I wonder why God decided to test Abraham. The Bible reveals a number of reasons why God tests people. For example, the wilderness wanderings of the Israelites were a test from God *to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.* (Deuteronomy 8:2) A theme runs through many of the passages dealing with the testing that comes from God. The testing is to refine the person of God, to remove the impurities that might make one unfaithful. James 1:3-4 addresses such testing: *for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

But why test Abraham in this way? Perhaps a clue is given in what God says about Isaac in Genesis 22:2. God tells Abraham, *to take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love.* Isaac was the son of promise. Early on, Abraham would have made his servant, Eliezer of Damascus, his heir, but God told him *This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.* (Genesis 15:4) Some years later, Ishmael is born to Hagar and Abraham when he is 86 years old. 13 years later, when God tells Abraham his child by Sarah will be born, it is obvious Abraham has been thinking Ishmael would be his heir. In the process of reminding God of his and Sarah's advanced ages Abraham says, *Oh that Ishmael might live before you!* (Genesis 17) God, then, reiterates that Sarah will give birth to this son. And so, at age 100 Abraham has a son, the son promised by God, his very own son, his only son, whom he loves.

Is Abraham willing to give up what is, in all likelihood, his most prized possession? Does he love God more than he loves his son? Will he go all the way in following God and being obedient? Will he pass this ultimate test of faith? Abraham began with great resolve, leaving early the next morning with equipment, supplies, and a couple of his young men. They

Members Needing Our Prayers

Joyce Bolton, Pat Seabolt, Rick Small, John Thompson, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Ernestine Byers, Glen Perkins, Allison Walker, Dwight Antle, Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Adam Fusco Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon

To Our Guests

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would journey for three days, father and son always in each other's company with the father's mind never far from what he had to do. What sort of thoughts would drive away thoughts of what was involved in sacrificing his son? Perhaps thoughts such as these maintained a running dialogue in Abraham's mind as they journeyed: God said to do it, and He has only benefitted me so far. I must trust this, too, will turn out well. I don't know why this is happening, but the fulfillment of God's promises to me lie with my son, Isaac. If thoughts such as these kept Abraham going, then when he arrived at the place of sacrifice, any doubts he might have had along the way had apparently fled. He 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. (Genesis 22:5)* It was not necessary to tell the young men that he and Isaac were leaving to worship and would return. He could have just told them to stay with the donkey. This statement of faith is confirmed in Hebrews 11: 19, *He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*

We, also, are constantly being tested. What means more to us than God? What are we unwilling to sacrifice? Can we sing "I can hear my Savior calling; I'll go with Him thru the garden; I'll go with Him thru the judgment; I'll go with Him **all** the way," without renegeing on that commitment? When being tested seems too much, remember Abraham. John Thompson

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

