



Pastor Scott Archer 09.27.2015*

Central Congregational Church

"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"

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The Test of Faith

Genesis 22:1-19

Series: Genesis – The Story of Us All

Central Passage

Genesis 22:9–12 (ESV) — **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."

Problem: God's gifts to bless us, easily become idols that bind us and blind us.

Central Thought: Like Abraham, God calls each of us into the freedom of complete faith and total obedience, even as he offers himself freely and completely to us in his son, Jesus Christ.

The Fear of the Lord

- ❖ The "Fear of the Lord" is a total abandonment to and confidence in God and his wisdom and faithfulness.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV) — **7** The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) — **6** And without **faith** it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God **must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.**

- ❖ Walking in the fear of the Lord frees us from the tyranny of certainty.

Hebrews 11:17–19 (ESV) — **17** By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, **18** of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." **19** He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

- ❖ Walking in the fear of the Lord is the pathway to God's blessing.

Mark 10:28–31 (ESV) — **28** Peter began to say to him, "See, we have left everything and followed you." **29** Jesus said, "**Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, 30 who will not receive a hundred-fold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. 31** But many who are first will be last, and the last first."

Homework/Questions

- ❖ Read Genesis chapter 22 and Hebrews chapters 11 & 12.
- ❖ Where is Jesus calling you to trust him – "fear him" – through a time of waiting or an act of obedience that seems unreasonable?
- ❖ Read Matthew 6:25-34 and 11:28-30.
- ❖ How are you learning to seek and obey Jesus first - prayer, Bible reading, Christian fellowship, prayer etc.?