

Daily devotions for 2019



Day 2
Genesis, part 2

Sacrifice

Genesis chapter 22

In this story, Abraham is seriously tested by God – almost to the point of killing his own special son, Issac, as a sacrificial offering to God. At the critical moment, the angel of the Lord instructs Abraham not to harm his son, as Abraham has clearly demonstrated his fear and respect for God.

Sometimes we are called to make sacrifices; this can involve sacrifices of time, energy, emotions, objects or money, when we need to support a friend or family member, or a cause. These times of sacrifice can be difficult but if we know the reason for the sacrifice this can make it easier for us to ‘give over’ our time and/or money for example, perhaps knowing we will never get these back, but understanding that the sacrifice will be worthwhile.

Perhaps at the time, Abraham had no understanding why he was called to sacrifice Issac. But because of his close relationship with God, he obeyed the instructions given to him. However, it became clear that as Abraham was prepared to lose his son, God in turn promised He would bless Abraham and make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. This was an extraordinary outcome.

When we are challenged by God to make sacrifices we should pray to God in faith for understanding, to ‘let go’ of those things that would prevent us from honouring God, and for strength to overcome our human frailties.

We should be prepared to release what resources, objects, time or money we have in order to demonstrate our faith in God and our respect for Him as Father and Provider, recognising that what we ‘have’ isn’t really ours to own.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, You are a generous God in your provision for us daily and in our lives. We can often make the mistake of taking this provision for granted, or think we own these provisions for ourselves.

Please forgive us. Help us to think sacrificially, to give generously and to seek for nothing in return, and that we may be attentive to recognise the blessings we receive from you. In Jesus’ name, Amen.