

Speaker: Johnny Blair

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Reading: Genesis 22v1-14

4 points centred around Isaac in a story with many twists and turns.

1. Isaac was loved

Loved by father – he was the child of promise.

We do not know what Abraham felt when God asked him to give up Isaac.

Loved by God

We have experienced the love of family and friends at some point in our lives. We can add another to the list of those who love us – God. He loves us so much He sent His Son to die on the cross for us.

We have so many material things, and seek pleasure and satisfaction in the world so that we can push love aside. No greater expression of love than the act that took place at Calvary. No matter how we fall God loves us just the same. There are three words that it is important for us to remember “God loves me”. If you forget everything else, always remember “God loves me”.

2. Isaac was bound

What a conversation between father and son.

Isaac asked “Where is the lamb?”

Abraham answered “God will provide himself a Lamb”

Isaac carried the wood ; this leads us to think of another man, Jesus ,who was, made to carry the cross as He went to make the greatest sacrifice of all.

Isaac was placed on the altar and couldn't escape, there is no record of any struggle.

Many things in life are binding such as contracts etc. Far above these is the fact that each one of us is born bound in sin. As we don't respond to God the sin just gets tighter and tighter and tighter.

The speaker gave the illustration of the tightening grip of a snake on his arm and having to get it removed by its owner because he could do nothing himself. We can't remove sin ourselves, we have to turn to God – the maker and the creator.

The Bible tells us that “All have sinned” Rom 3v23. There is not one of us who has not sinned.

Don't need to teach a child to sin it is just there.

The answer lies in the man who was on the cross – He was not bound by the nails, love held Him on the cross – He could have come down but He died alone for you and me.

3. Isaac was condemned

Isaac had condemnation hanging over his head. He was condemned to die.

People wait on death penalty await a pardon. The pardon needs to be issued by someone in authority.

“All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” Rom 3v23. We have all failed God's standard.

The great problem that we face is that, “The wages of sin is death” Rom 6v23

We have a death penalty hanging over our head. We are heading towards a lost eternity.

When we have a problem in this world we turn to others for help yet when we hear of the problem of sin we shrug it off and think nothing of it.

The Word of God is able to point us in the right way and give us the solution.

“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” Rom 6v23

God waits to issue that pardon if only we will turn to Him.

This was very much a test for Abraham – God was against human sacrifice yet he gave His only Son.

4. Isaac was saved

Abraham had every faith in God that Isaac would come back alive. As they left the servants, Abraham said, “we will come back”.

The voice came from heaven to stop Isaac and a substitution was made of the ram. God had placed the ram there to take the place of Isaac.

Isaac could only walk back down the mountain because there was a substitute.

God provided a substitute for us – His Son. Showing how much He wants us to be in heaven with Him.

This is a message of hope that we can have eternal life in one simple step. It is not all doom and gloom.

Where do we stand tonight?

What is our condition?

The Bible talks of the Lord Jesus coming again to take those who believe on Him.

Where would we be if it were tonight?

Will we be one of the ones left behind or will we be taken to the very heights of heaven?