

## I. Introduction

- a. Prep for Father's Day Sermon
  - i. not been a dad for a long time. What can I say? Tribute to Dad's in my life.
- b. Introducing Abraham
  - i. Hard finding a good dad in the Bible. Thought of the father w/ many sons. . .
  - ii. Turn to **Genesis 22:1-19**
- c. Fatherlessness Statistics – Big Problem – Why is no one talking about this?
  - i. 25 million children in our country are growing up without dad.
  - ii. Entire generation growing up without a father figure
  - iii. 80-85% of gang members are from fatherless homes.
  - iv. 75% of teen pregnancy are from fatherless homes
  - v. 65% of suicides are from fatherless homes.
  - vi. 75% of drug users are from fatherless homes.
- d. Hook. – **What virtues can we learn from Father Abraham about being a dad even though he is going to sacrifice his son?**

## II. A Father's Sacrifice

- a. **Genesis 22:1-3**
  - i. Read Text
  - ii. Abraham is tested
    1. No one likes being tested. Can't imagine this kind of testing.
  - iii. Abraham's Expectations
    1. Is God really going to take Isaac away?
    2. Provide another son? Nope: **Gen. 21:12**
    3. Raise Isaac from the dead? Perhaps: **Hebrews 11:17-19**
  - iv. Abraham's Offering
    1. Was willing to sacrifice what was important to him, but not his character.
    2. How many fathers would be willing to sacrifice so much?
- b. Sacrifice:
  - i. What this part of Abraham's story tells us is that a Good Father sacrifices.
    1. Abraham's is more than I could bear.
- c. Application:
  - i. What have you sacrificed in order to be obedient to God?
  - ii. Fathers need to be present in their kids' lives.
  - iii. Sacrifices that put God first will be remembered by your kids.
- d. Illustration:
  - i. Dad hired in 1987.
  - ii. Around thanksgiving of 93' Chief Operations Officer of Bible College wanted to change where funds from an inherited Trust were designated within the College.
  - iii. Move funds designated for the worship program to start a psychology program.
  - iv. Dad said this would not be wise.
  - v. Dad's boss, the Chief Financial Officer said this would be unwise.
  - vi. Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 94' Dad and CFO were fired and escorted from the building for being in the way of the COO's vision for the school.
  - vii. He sacrificed his paycheck to be a faithful servant of God.
  - viii. Started working for Preferred Risk. GuideOne insurance.
  - ix. Went to work for First Student Bus services, later manages entire fleet.
  - x. Led us down a difficult road where Dad who didn't have much was a servant to many. It revealed Dad's nature.
  - xi. This event was quintessential in my development.
- e. Service:
  - i. **Sacrificing leads to the heart of a servant.** Can't control the world around you but you can control how you serve God in it.
- f. **Transition**
  - i. **Abraham's willingness to offer his son is not the main point of the story here. It's more about what he isn't willing to sacrifice, that is his relationship with God. He put that first**

and it ultimately makes him a servant in God's will. But this is not the only virtue we learn in this story. Let's read on.

### III. A Father's Reliance

#### a. Genesis 22:4-10

- i. Read Text
- ii. It seems Abraham might expect God to spare Isaac. "The Lord will provide"
- iii. Leads up to the next virtue Abraham teaches us.

#### b. Reliance

- i. Requires deep faith.

#### c. Application:

- i. Men are told to be care givers.
- ii. Expected to rely upon God.

#### d. Illustration:

- i. Bill Altmiller leading his family through an unbelievable lift shift.
- ii. Birth of Danny
- iii. Began to notice Danny is not developing. Begins to pray.
- iv. After a few months, go to hospital. Receive terrible news.
- v. Bill and Gene couldn't leave Danny. Pray for God to give him sight and hearing.
- vi. Gene feeding Danny
- vii. Doctors call it a miracle.
- viii. 20 years of reliance turns into perseverance. Never waived in unbelief or doubt, or anger.
- ix. Ricky calls with the news that Danny passed.
- x. It also prepared them for when God took Elizabeth.

#### e. Perseverance

- i. **Reliance upon God leads to perseverance in God.**

#### f. Transition

- i. **But this is not all that Abraham teaches us, for there is one more aspect of his story I want to share with you all.**

### IV. A Father's Fear

#### a. Genesis 22:11-19

- i. Read Text

#### b. Fear

- i. He feared God.
  1. Fear of the Lord is beginning of wisdom. **Proverbs 1:7**. Mentioned 15 times in book.
  2. **Deuteronomy 31:11-13** teaches value of it.
  3. Moses just read entire law. Fear leads to blessing, Not fearing leads to curses.
- ii. Fear of the Lord leads to blessing.
  1. Re read **genesis 22:16-17** – ratification of the blessing through Abraham.

#### c. Application

- i. Be truly terrified.
- ii. Men want to conquer great obstacles. Men of fear are not real men.
- iii. Fear of the lord makes us obedient. In the small things and not just big things. The blessings of the fear are worth it.

#### d. Illustration

- i. Grandpa Empson – the rock that built our family.
- ii. Last time we visited him he spoke about what he is leaving behind.
- iii. Story we've heard at least 20 times.
- iv. Grandpa helps build the pulpit using the left over stone from his house at Hilltop Christian Camp. (see picture)
- v. Grandpa's fear led to wisdom, he was no grandiose evangelist. Fear is played out in decision at a time.
- vi. You know there is fear when you see the fruit.
- vii. Think of all the sermons and decisions made
- viii. The success of our family.
- ix. Not bragging, but Grandpa set our family on a trajectory and we are the blessing in his life because he feared God and obeyed.

#### e. Blessing

- i. Abraham and his family were blessed because of his fear. **Fear of the Lord leads to blessing from the Lord.**

**f. Transition**

- i. **Fearing the Lord is the final virtue of a father we can pull from Abraham at least in this particular story. But look at all that he has taught us.**

**V. Closing**

- a. Sacrifices, Reliance, and Fear lead to Service, Perseverance, and Blessings. I have been very lucky.
- b. Fatherlessness Revisited.
  - i. Fatherlessness may be the biggest problem of our age, know your impact.
- c. Thesis
  - i. **Humility. Abraham teaches us that the Father who is humble sacrifices fatherlessness rather than fatherhood.**
  - i. Shouldn't be surprising at all.