

GOD ASKS US TO SURRENDER TO HIM...FULLY

Genesis 22:2-18

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son."

*Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place *The Lord Will Provide*. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided."*

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

WEEK 4: UNFINISHED SURRENDER

- 1 Abraham has waited so long for a son, and now God asks him to be willing to sacrifice his son Isaac on the altar of the Lord. How would you expect Abraham to react? Why doesn't he object? What emotions are going through your head and your heart right now after reading this passage?

- 2 It is tempting for Abraham (or any of us) to believe that anything given to us by God is OURS, not His. How does this passage remind you of things in your own life that you maybe do not view as completely surrendered to God but still as "yours"?

3 What is preventing you from surrendering to God and His plan for your life, even though it seems UNFINISHED to you? What is preventing you from being fully surrendered to Him and trusting Him with faith beyond the horizon?

4 Do you believe God can and WILL do something THROUGH you and IN you during this Unfinished season? How do you think God is seeking to use you and your resources in such a way that brings glory to Him and shines light on His name, even when you may not know the specific path ahead? He is asking you to trust Him and surrender to Him. Will you?

WEEK 4: UNFINISHED SURRENDER

JESUS GAVE IT ALL FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured from sinners such hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

- 5 To run the race with Christ means committing to it and not growing weary. Jesus gave His life for us because of the joy set before Him in heaven. When you think about your response to that type of sacrifice and Jesus' call upon our lives to run the race as we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses," how does that influence how you are thinking about your Unfinished commitment and the impact it might have?
