

The Forgotten Jesus Podcast

S3E4

Title – The Miraculous Connections Between Jesus and Isaac

Description – Have you ever noticed the similarities between Jesus and Isaac? Join us today as we press pause on Matthew to jump back and examine Genesis 22.

Last week, we ended off with the testings of Abraham by God. There were 10 tests that God tested Abraham with.

Today we're going to look at the 10th test, where God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

Abraham knows that the testing of God is never meant to pass or fail. God's testing will build you up in your relationship with Him.

Genesis 22:1-2

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he answered.

²"Take your son," he said, "your only son Isaac, whom you love, go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about."

So right off the bat we see a couple of things. Isaac wasn't Abraham's only son. He had Ishmael, but by this point he's been sent off. Ishmael was the son Abraham had in disobedience to God.

Notice the parallel in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son..."

Genesis 22:3-4

³ So Abraham got up early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took with him two of his young men and his son Isaac. He split wood for a burnt offering and set out to go to the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

Abraham without hesitation or doubt walks out in faith for 3 days to travel to the place where he will offer up his son.

Abraham knows that partial obedience is disobedience to the Lord. Even delayed obedience is disobedience. God spoke, and the very next morning Abraham is up and on the road.

From the Mishna, the Rabbi's commentary / observations on the Old Testament, one Rabbi commented that the picture of wood on his back made him look like a condemned man walking while carrying a cross.

The Jewish historian, Josephus, thinks that Isaac was at least 21, maybe older. Some think that Isaac could have been as old as 25-30.

The point is, that this is a man, who's father is 125+ years old. Isaac is stronger than Abraham, could have easily overpowered him, but instead, he takes the wood and allows this to happen to himself. Just like Jesus when he said that no one takes his life, but he lays his life down willingly.

John 10:17-18

¹⁷ This is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.

Genesis 22:5-6

⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go over there to worship; then we'll come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac. In his hand he took the fire and the knife, and the two of them walked on together.

They ascend the hill, Mt. Moriah, which is also where David will build the tabernacle and where Solomon builds the Temple of God.

They will go to worship. What is worship? It's obedience to the Lord.

The Donkey, Jesus would ride into the city of Jerusalem on a donkey.

There's a sense of unity, that the two of them are walking together, in lockstep towards what is about to happen. Abraham being 125, Isaac being 25, you can almost see Isaac holding Abraham's hand as they go up the mountain together to steady his father on the way up.

When Jesus prayed in the garden, notice what he says. ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me—nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." (Luke 22:42). Jesus is facing a brutal execution and is willingly going towards the cross that He will endure. Just the same as Isaac, carrying the large pieces of wood up the hill for the burnt sacrifice.

Genesis 22:7-8

⁷ Then Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, "My father."

And he replied, "Here I am, my son."

Isaac said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?"

⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." Then the two of them walked on together.

The Hebrew is interesting here, because normally the verb precedes the noun in Hebrew. But in this case, the noun, "God" comes before the verb. In a way, it's God who will provide the sacrifice, and in the case of Jesus, the sacrifice will be God himself.

Genesis 22:9-14

⁹ When they arrived at the place that God had told him about, Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood. He bound his son Isaac and placed him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son.

¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!"

He replied, "Here I am."

¹² Then he said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me." ¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught in the thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham named that place The LORD Will Provide, so today it is said, "It will be provided on the LORD's mountain."

Whereas Isaac was spared, Jesus gave up His life. And as the author of Hebrews tells us, Abraham was ready to sacrifice Isaac, believing in God and His promises so much, that he was convinced God would raise Isaac from the dead if Abraham killed him. Even though that's not something they'd ever seen before.

Hebrews 11:17-19

¹⁷ By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. He received the promises and yet he was offering his one and only son, ¹⁸ the one to whom it had been said, Your offspring will be traced through Isaac. ¹⁹ He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead; therefore, he received him back, figuratively speaking.

Next week we'll be back to Matthew's gospel.