**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Dress Rehearsal for Calvary |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Hebrews 11:17-19; Genesis 22:1-14 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2394 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is no book like the Bible.
      1. It is one book and yet it is sixty-six books.
         1. Thirty-nine books in the Old Testament.
         2. Twenty-seven in the New Testament.
      2. Written over a period of about fifteen hundred years by at least forty different authors in three different languages.
         1. The authors were people from all backgrounds and walks of life.
      3. But when you bring them together, they don’t make sixty-six books, they make one book that is bound together.
         1. It has one hero; His name is Jesus.
         2. It has one villain; he is the devil.
         3. It has one theme; it is salvation.
         4. It has one purpose; the glory of God.
   2. If you read the Bible anywhere, you’re going to find the Lord Jesus standing somewhere in the shadows.
      1. We see Jesus in the shadows as we look into the life of Abraham, the father of the faithful, the brightest star in the Hebrew heaven.
      2. As we look back in history, centuries before Jesus Christ was born upon this earth, we find a wonderful depiction of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. Hebrews 11:17-19
      1. “Tried” in this passage literally means “tested.”
      2. The word “figure” means a type, an illustration.
   4. In the Old Testament, God gave illustrations, types, prophecies, figures of that which is to come in the New Testament.
      1. This is one of the great confirmations of the inspiration of the Scripture, seeing these prophecies of Jesus many centuries before He was born.
      2. It is also a confirmation of the deity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as we see Him pictured in the Old Testament.
   5. Do not get the idea that the Old Testament is about something other than Jesus.
      1. All of the Bible is about Jesus.
         1. John 8:56
            1. “Your father” refers to Abraham.
            2. Jesus said Abraham rejoiced to see His day.
         2. Galatians 3:8
            1. The Gospel was preached to Abraham.
   6. Genesis 22 shows a portrait of Jesus, a prophecy of His coming crucifixion on the cross.
      1. See it, believe it, ask yourself, “What does that mean to me personally?”
2. the special person who is described
   1. The person who is described is Isaac, but he is a picture of Jesus.
   2. Genesis 22:1-2
   3. There are several ways that Isaac is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ:
      1. His miracle birth was prophesied.
         1. Genesis 18:9-14
            1. Is anything too hard for God? No!
         2. Isaac was born of a miracle.
         3. Jesus was born of a miracle.
            1. Isaiah 7:14
      2. His birthday was preset.
         1. Genesis 21:1-2
            1. God not only prophesied the birth, but God prophesied the set time of the birth.
         2. Galatians 4:4
         3. Isaac was born at a set time.
         4. Jesus was born at a set time.
      3. Isaac’s name was divinely given.
         1. Genesis 17:19
         2. Matthew 1:21
         3. Isaac was pre-named.
         4. Jesus was pre-named.
      4. Isaac was conceived of a miracle.
         1. Genesis 18:14
            1. Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 years of age.
         2. Luke 1:34
         3. The angel said to Abraham, “Is there anything too hard for God?”
         4. The angel said to Mary, “With God, nothing shall be impossible.”
         5. Many Jews have difficulty believing in the virgin birth, yet every Jew is alive because of a miracle birth.
      5. Isaac was loved of his father.
         1. Genesis 22:2
            1. This is the first time the word “love” is found in the Bible.
         2. Genesis 22:16
            1. Isaac is called Abraham’s only son.
            2. Compare that to John 3:16.
         3. We think about God loving the world, but God loved His Son before He loved the world.
            1. John 5:20
      6. Isaac was offered up as a sacrifice.
         1. Jesus was offered up as a sacrifice.
         2. Genesis 22:2
         3. John 3:16
      7. Isaac was raised from the dead.
         1. Genesis 22:4
         2. Abraham counts the days: one, two, three, until he comes to the place where he is to offer up Isaac.
         3. Hebrews 11:19
            1. In Abraham’s mind, for three days Isaac was dead.
            2. Abraham received him from the dead.
         4. The Gospel we preach says that Christ died for our sins, that He was buried and was raised again the third day.
            1. I Corinthians 15:3-4
         5. Abraham received Isaac back in a figure.
         6. God the Father received Jesus back literally.
   4. Isaac is a special person who represents and prefigures Jesus.
3. A specific place that is designated
   1. Genesis 22:2
      1. God had a specific place He wanted Abraham to go for the sacrifice.
   2. Genesis 22:4
   3. God chose one great galaxy out of billions; the Milky Way.
      1. God chose one sun out of the entire Milky Way.
      2. God chose one little planet; Earth.
         1. God said, “The Earth is the Lord’s.”
      3. God chose one land; Israel.
         1. God calls it, “My land.”
      4. God chose one city; Jerusalem.
         1. God calls it, “My holy city.”
      5. God chose one hill; Mount Moriah.
         1. God calls it, “My holy hill.”
         2. This hill will become the focal point of all of the vast universes.
         3. This is the specific place God tells Abraham to take Isaac and offer him to the Lord.
   4. The name “Moriah” literally means “foreseen of the Lord.”
      1. The place is not incidental or accidental.
      2. It is the same place that Jesus would one day pour out His life’s blood.
   5. Luke 23:33
      1. Not a place, the place. The same place.
4. the purpose that is designated
   1. Genesis 22:2
   2. This speaks of the cross, when Isaac was to be offered in that same place that Jesus was to die.
   3. Think of the suffering of the cross that is pictured.
      1. Genesis 22:4-8
         1. Abraham has faith that they will both return from the hilltop.
      2. Father and son come to a point beyond which the others cannot go.
         1. That foretells dark Gethsemane where Jesus left the disciples and went alone to commune with His Father, facing Calvary.
         2. Isaac sees the tools of sacrifice in his father’s hands and begins to realize what is going to happen.
            1. Think of what must have been going through Isaac’s heart.
            2. Think of what must have been in Abraham’s heart.
            3. Think of how much the Lord Jesus suffered.
            4. Think how much God the Father suffered as it is pictured here.
      3. Genesis 22:9
         1. Aged Abraham begins to bind Isaac’s hands.
            1. Abraham is well beyond 100 years of age.
            2. Isaac is not a child but a strapping young man.

Isaac could have easily overpowered Abraham, but he allowed himself to be bound.

* + 1. John 10:18
    2. Here you see the son submitting himself to the father.
    3. People said of Jesus, “He saved others; himself he could not save.”
       1. They were so wrong; He saved others; Himself, He would not be saved.
       2. Jesus could have come down from that cross but He did not.
    4. Genesis 22:6
       1. Wood is a symbol of humanity.
       2. This speaks about the wood of our wickedness being laid upon Jesus as we see Isaac bearing that wood up this mountain that Jesus would one day die on.
    5. John 19:17
    6. Isaac goes up that mountain bearing the wood upon which he was to die.
    7. Jesus goes up the same mountain bearing that wooden cross upon which He was to die.
  1. Think of the sacrifice of the cross that is pictured.
     1. The cord, the rope, speaks of the binding power of sin.
     2. The knife speaks of the bleeding power of sin.
     3. The fire speaks of the burning power of sin.
        1. Because the fires of God’s wrath would burn themselves out upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. the promise that is declared
   1. Genesis 22:11-14
   2. Now the picture changes.
      1. The knife does not fall on Isaac, who represents the Lord Jesus.
      2. Isaac now represents us and there is a ram caught in a thorny thicket.
      3. This ram crowned with thorns is taken and becomes a substitute for Isaac.
      4. The knife did not fall that day upon Isaac because one day it would fall upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
   3. Isaac had asked, “Father, where is the lamb?”
      1. Abraham said, “God will provide Himself a lamb.” And God did.
   4. When John the Baptist saw Jesus coming he said, “*Behold, the lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world*.”
      1. John 1:29
   5. When Abraham saw what God did, he named that place “Jehovah-Jireh.”
      1. This means, “*The Lord will provide*.”
      2. Whatever need you have, the Lord is there to provide for that need.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. If there were ever a promise that God might be tempted not to keep, it would have been the promise to send Jesus.
      1. If there were ever a time when God would say, “I change my mind,” that would have been the time.
      2. Romans 8:32
   2. God spared Abraham’s son; but God did not spare His own Son.
      1. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the one who is prefigured and prophesied in Genesis 22.
   3. God provided Himself a Lamb.
      1. It doesn’t say that God would provide a lamb for Himself.
      2. God becomes the Lamb.
      3. God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself.
   4. God in human flesh died at Calvary for you.
      1. God laid down His own dear Son upon that altar and the fires of God’s wrath burned themselves out upon God’s own dear Son.
      2. John 3:16
   5. Romans 8:32
      1. If God gave Jesus, He’s not going to hold anything else back.
      2. He is the God who provides.
   6. His name is Jehovah-Jireh.
      1. The God who gave the first great gift is the God who will see us through.
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16