

Eastern Mission Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

September 2020

“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen. And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” **Genesis 22: 1-18.**

This story is a great example to all of us as to the goodness of God. Like Abraham we face times in our lives when we are tempted, tested, and tried in ways that we never imagined. Abraham was tempted in a way that most if not all of us have not been, yet scripture does not explain and make all kinds of reasons or excuses why or why not Abraham should obey God. In the New Testament it is written, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the alter? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” **James 2: 21-24.**

Throughout history there have been many preachers and teachers that have a list of outward works that they want to believe can be followed in order to please God for one’s salvation. Here in these passages it speaks of works as well but in a total different way. The work that pleases God is believing and obeying. Believing and obeying when it doesn’t even make sense to the carnal mind. Jesus our Lord and Savior was obedient unto death and He is our example. This account is a picture already in the first book of the bible of the sacrifice that God provided from before the foundation of the world. When God calls man to follow His way it is against our own will and logic, but it is only thru following God’s way that we like Abraham can receive the blessings and promises that God has for His children. God wants to give good gifts to His children and He is always ready to provide for us when we are tempted and tried. May this place in God’s word be a reminder to us even in this present time when we are faced with difficult temptations and may face even more difficult trials, that we should not waver and fear but we should stand strong on God’s promises and divine providence that He has for His obedient children. We find direction in God’s word. The greatest blessing that we can receive is the salvation and living faith that God has provided thru the works of His Son our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He promised this to Abraham and to all the nations of the Earth.

In God’s peace!
Mark Traffie