

## **February 8, 2015**

### **”Now I Know That You Fear / Love God”**

#### **Genesis 22:1-14**

- February 8, 15 & 22 : ”the fear of the Lord”
- “How do I know that you love me?”
  - o We all want this question answered.
  - o “defining moments”

#### **1. A Great Test**

**“Some time later God *tested* Abraham” (verse 1)**

Is God a Moral Monster?!?!

- i. God’s “tests” us; the Accuser “tempts” us
- ii. Not a question asked by the writer
- iii. Could God ask this of us today?
- iv. This test comes toward the end of Abraham’s life.  
Abraham’s story: “It is much easier to believe in God than to trust in God.”

#### **2. A Specific Test**

What is the theme word in this story?

**“Take your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac...Sacrifice him...” (Genesis 22:2; see verse 12)**

**“For God so loved the world that He gave his one and only Son...” (John 3:16).**

“We have this story...so that we have some true human understanding of what the Father did with the Son” (Tim Keller)

### 3. A Proven Test

**“Now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld from you, your only son.” (Genesis 22:12)**

- Didn't God know that Abraham feared him?
- Fear of God”=
  - i. Loving God
    - “**But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you**” (Psalm 130:4)
  - ii. Not scared of God, not “cowering” in God's presence.
  - iii. A bold humility and awe.
  - iv. An inner disposition that becomes an outer reality.

Fearing Aslan: he is “good but not safe”

“To 'fear the Lord,' biblically, means to be in awe and wonder of [God's] greatness and love” (Tim Keller, Twitter: February 5, 2014).

“In the original language, 'Fear the Lord' doesn't mean be afraid. It means sustaining a joyful, astonished awe, and wonder before Him” (Tim Keller, Twitter tweet: October 12, 2014)

**“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, *fear God*, honor the emperor” (1 Peter 2:17).**