

## **A DRESS REHEARSAL FOR CALVARY** **(Genesis 22:1-14)**

### **I. Both deaths were ordained by God.**

- A. God is the One who commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac.
  - 1. It came by a decree from God as verse 2 points out to us.
  - 2. We know that Abraham would have never done this on his own.
- B. It is God that ordained that Jesus be the sacrifice for mankind.
  - 1. Jesus is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).
  - 2. God always had in His plan that Jesus would die for the sins of the world.
- C. Jesus came into the world knowing this was the plan the whole time.
  - 1. Mark 2:20.
  - 2. Matthew 12:40.
- D. Our Lord knew all along that His coming to earth and dying was going to take place and that it was ordained by God.

### **II. Both carried the wood.**

- A. Notice verse 6 of our text - Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son.
  - 1. Unknowingly, Isaac was carrying the wood that would be used to offer him as a sacrifice.
  - 2. He had to carry that wood up the mountain for his father.
- B. Our Lord was forced to carry His cross after receiving the sentence of death from Pilate.
  - 1. He did this knowing exactly what would take place when He finished the journey.
  - 2. He was forced to take His instrument of death as far as He could - John 19:16-17.
  - 3. We know that Simon of Cyrene was forced by the Romans to carry it part of the way when Jesus could no longer bear it.
- C. Could you imagine carrying the bullet that was to be used for your execution or the rope to your hanging or whatever means of death may be yours at the hands of someone else?
- D. While Isaac had no idea the wood was for him, we know Jesus knew exactly what that cross was for.

### **III. Both were sacrifices.**

- A. God told Abraham that he was to offer his son Isaac as a burnt offering.
  - 1. No telling how many times Abraham had taken some animal, cut its throat, and offered it to God.
  - 2. He had done it those many times as a sacrifice to God, either for sin or to show his love for God.
  - 3. Now, it would be his son he would be killing and offering to God.
- B. God gave us His Son to be our sacrifice.

1. Jesus knew that His blood was going to be shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).
  2. He became our sin offering (2 Corinthians 5:21).
  3. This was always God's intention for Jesus (Ephesians 5:2).
- C. The only way sins could be forgiven was by the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22 - And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission).
1. Jesus knew why His blood was to be shed (Matthew 26:28).
  2. He knew He came into the world to be that sacrifice (Hebrews 9:26).
- D. Without this sacrifice, you and I would have no hope of the remission of our sins.

#### **IV. Both were willing sacrifices.**

- A. Numerous parts of this account have always fascinated me, but maybe the most fascinating is that Isaac did not fight his father.
1. We are told that after Abraham built the altar and laid out the wood that he bound Isaac and laid him on the altar.
  2. We don't read at all of any resistance by Isaac.
    - a. Most believe that Isaac was at least in his late teens if not early 20's by this time.
    - b. Some even believe he may have been about 33, to really bring similarity to the Lord.
    - c. Either way, Abraham was over 100 years of age at the time.
    - d. No doubt that Isaac could have resisted Abraham.
    - e. Yet, he did not.
    - f. He was completely willing it seems.
- B. Our Lord was a willing sacrifice as well.
1. We've already noticed that He knew His purpose in coming to earth.
    - a. On several occasions He prepared His apostles for His coming death.
    - b. He hid nothing from them.
  2. Jesus knew the pain the type of death he was to suffer would bring.
  3. Despite this, Jesus willingly gave Himself.
    - a. John 10:15 - I lay down my life for the sheep.
    - b. Note verses 17-18.
  4. The Jews, Pilate, Herod nor the people took our Lord's life.
- C. He willingly gave Himself to die for our sins (Galatians 2:20).
- D. Like Isaac could have, Jesus could have resisted, but He knew that was not the will of the Father.
- E. He also knew we would have no hope if He resisted.

#### **V. Both were offered by their fathers.**

- A. God commanded Abraham to offer his son Isaac.
1. The Hebrews writer says of Isaac that he was Abraham's only

begotten son (Hebrews 11:17).

- a. This phrase is only used of Jesus and Isaac.
  - b. He was the only begotten son of Abraham because he was the only son like him that Abraham had.
    - (1) He was born to Sarah.
    - (2) He was born miraculously.
    - (3) He was definitely one of a kind.
2. The Hebrews writer also says of Abraham, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac" (Hebrews 11:17).
- a. In his mind, Isaac was dead.
  - b. He had gone through the whole act in his mind numerous times and had fixed his mind on the fact his son was going to die.
- B. Jesus was offered by His Father.
1. John 3:16 - God gave us His Son.
  2. He freely offered Him to us.
- C. This was God's greatest way to show us how much He loves us (Romans 5:8).

**VI. Both were dead for three days.**

- A. You are probably saying that Isaac never died.
1. Physically you would be correct.
  2. However, three days before his father laid him on that altar, Isaac had died in his father's mind.
  3. They had traveled for three days and for all three of those days, Isaac was dead to Abraham.
- B. Our Lord was dead for three days.
1. He died on Friday, laid in the grave on Saturday and was resurrected on Sunday.
  2. For parts of three days, Jesus was dead.

**VII. Both were received from the dead.**

- A. Notice Hebrews 11:17-19.
1. When the angel of the Lord called out to him, it took his name being called twice for him to stop what he was doing.
  2. Since he had died in his mind, it was as if his son was brought back from the dead.
- B. Thankfully, our Lord was literally brought back from the dead.
1. This was a vital part of the gospel Paul preached (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
  2. His being resurrected proved that He was the Son of God (Romans 1:4).
  3. When Mary and the other women got to that grave, there was no one in it.
  4. When Peter and John looked in, the only ones in it were two angels.

- C. There was great joy on the part of those who saw the Lord after His resurrection.
  - 1. We ought to have such great joy today.
  - 2. As the song says, we serve a living Savior.
  - 3. As another hymn says, because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
  - 4. Not only can we face tomorrow, we can face death.

**VIII. Both were the ultimate tests of love for their fathers.**

- A. Could you imagine being in such a position as Abraham?
  - 1. No doubt he loved Isaac deeply.
    - a. He was the son of his old age.
    - b. He was the son born to his loving wife of so many years.
  - 2. He also loved God deeply.
    - a. He had left his home.
    - b. He had left his family.
    - c. He had wandered in a strange land, never owning any land.
    - d. He did all this because he loved God.
  - 3. Truly, this was the ultimate test of love.
    - a. If he offered his son, he showed his love for God and we would think that he would not be showing love for his son.
    - b. However, if he had failed to obey God, he would be showing a lack of love for Isaac because he would not have been modeling obedience and showing respect for God's commands.
    - c. He was really showing how much he loved God and Isaac when he was offering Isaac to God.
- B. Truly, God was showing how much He loved us in giving us His Son in whom He is well pleased.
  - 1. John 3:16.
    - a. So loved is an indication of the depth of His love for mankind.
    - b. He loved us enough to make that great sacrifice.
  - 2. Romans 5:8 - this was God's best way to show us His love for us.
- C. There should be no doubt in the mind of any man how much he is loved by God when it is realized that God gave His Son for him as He did.

The title came from a sermon by Adrian Rogers and some of the material in the sermon came from a lecture by Wade Webster.