

WCBC SERMON NOTES - APRIL 29, 2018

TOPIC: Understanding Seven Great Bible Paradoxes

Sermon 4: *Gaining Through Losing!*

TEXT: Genesis 22:1-9; Philippians 3:7-8

INTRO: "A faith that has not been tested cannot be trusted!"

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS GAIN IN LOSING FOR GOD?

I. OUR FAITH IN GOD IS STRENGTHENED: vv. 1-2, 5b, 12

1. It reveals the depth of our faith - v.5b cf. Heb. 11:19
Hebrews 11:19: "Abraham reasoned that **God could raise the dead**, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death."

II. OUR LIFE PERSPECTIVE IS STRAIGHTENED: v. 2

1. We need to prioritize God - v.2 cf. Matthew 22:37
Matthew 22:37: Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with **all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**"

III. GOD'S GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR OUR TRIALS: vv. 8-10

v.8a: Abraham answered, "God himself **will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.**"

1. God will not give us trials that we cannot bear - I Corinthians 10:13b
Note: "temptation/tempted" (I Cor. 10:13) - Greek word, "peirasmos," meaning, "trial/testing"
2. God will always provide grace, "a way out," when we go through trials - I Cor. 10:13c cf. Gen. 22:8a

IV. GOD GIVES MORE THAN WHAT WE LOSE FOR HIM: vv. 12, 17-18

HIM: vv. 12, 17-18

Note: God is "Jehovah-jireh," "The Lord Will Provide."

v.17a: "I will surely bless you and make your descendants as **numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore.**"

V. GOD'S PROMISE(S) IS REAFFIRMED: vv. 15-18

Note: The angel of the Lord mentioned here is actually God Himself! - vv. 11-12, 15-18

v.17 : cf. Genesis 15:5

v.18 : cf. Genesis 12:2-3

Note: God renewed His covenant with Abraham!

CONCLUSION: Jesus, The Lamb of God!

She Gave Her Children!

A missions director once met with the mother of one of his agency's missionaries and spent some time getting to know her. She prepared tea for the director in her parlor, and as they drank tea, she explained to him the difficulty of having a daughter on the mission field of China, and a son as a missionary in Sudan. She loved and missed them dearly, but as she explained, her love for God allowed her to let them follow His will for their lives. The mother went on to describe the burden her son had for the Sudanese people. Her relay of the description of the people brought her to tears several times during the conversation. The missions director left her house with a deeper appreciation for the parents of missionaries, and a greater burden for the country of Sudan. A few months later, the missions director got word that a missionary in Sudan got killed - it was the Scottish lady's son. Feeling he should be the one to break the news to her, he once again visited the mother in her home. After telling her the tragic news, the mother looked down, and in a few moments of composure, she said, "Sir, I would rather have my son die in the middle of Sudan alone, than to have him living here with me, disobeying God's will!"

- *Daily In The Word*, December 5, 2009

Verse For Today

"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost everything. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ!" - Philippians 3:8

Food For Thought

"Ministry that costs nothing, accomplishes nothing!

- John Henry Jowett
