

Title: "The Way of Worship"

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-18

Speaker: Josh Maness

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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**Genesis 22:1-19** *"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. 2 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. 3 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. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. 5 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. 6 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. 7 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? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 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. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 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. 13 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. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. 15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 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: 17 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; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.*

Charles Stanley once said "most Christians in most churches never worship because they never truly touch God." We easily become creatures of habit and we become ritualistic. Music becomes entertainment, church becomes a chore, and worship is left out. Our hearts aren't truly in it. Genesis 22:5 is the first time the word "worship" is ever mentioned in the Bible.

### **The Formula for Worship: Revelation + Preparation + Separation + Dedication + Proclamation + Confirmation**

- 1. We have to have a revelation from God:** True worship is based on a revelation from God. Worship is not based on our personal preferences or priorities. It is solely based on God. How does God reveal himself to us? John 3:16 says *"for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life."* Acts 17:27 *"That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us."* If you've never had an experience from God or a revelation from him, he's nearby. God doesn't hide or play tricks with us. He's waiting for you to come to him – he's ready. You can hear *about* God all day long but until you are ready to hear *from* God, you will never truly hear from him.
- 2. We have to prepare our hearts:** When is the last time we have prepared ourselves for worship? We prepare for lots of things: we prepare food, get ready for work, prepare for sickness, prepare for bedtime, etc. Not only should we prepare for worship, but we should be prepared for the second-coming of Christ. Matthew 24:44 *"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."* When Christ returns, we need to be ready. I Thessalonians 5:2 *"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."*

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3. **We have to have separation:** We need to separate ourselves from anyone and anything that draws our attention from God. How can God solely have our focus if there's something else in our eyes? We bring outside problems in with us to church and it affects our worship. We do not separate ourselves from our outside issues. If we are not fully focused on God, we can't fully worship.
4. **We have to have dedication:** Abraham dedicated his son to God. Isaac was his son; Isaac was the promised son that God gave to Abraham. Isaac was a gift from God and God asked Abraham to give him back. Isaac was the ONLY son of Abraham. Oswald Chambers once said "My utmost for his highest." God doesn't want your throw aways. He wants your best. If we are ever going to truly worship God, we need to take *all* of ourselves and put it at the feet of Jesus. Romans 12:1-2 *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* Live a life sacrificed to God. Live a life holy for God. Through history we see many examples of men and women who were dedicated to God. They didn't get that way by simply worshipping when they felt like it. They woke up and went to bed prepared to worship the Lord. They were dedicated all the time. We can't be a true worshipper if we are hot and cold, serving one moment and not serving the next. Dedication means "the quality of being dedicated or committed to a task or purpose."
5. **We have to have a proclamation:** Genesis 22:11 *"And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen."* Jehovahjireh means "the Lord will provide". Abraham was proclaiming who God is and what he does. That's what true worship is. Praise is proclaiming what God has done, worship is proclaiming what God does. We need to know that the Lord will provide. Many times we don't realize that God will provide. We will acknowledge that he's done it in the past, but we feel like he won't do it today. God hasn't changed, so why would his promises change? Why don't we proclaim the good news of what God has done? Job 36:5 *"Behold, God is mighty, and despiseth not any: he is mighty in strength and wisdom."* Psalm 29:1 *"Give unto the LORD, O ye mighty, give unto the LORD glory and strength."*
6. **True worship brings restoration:** If you feel like you're far from God, when is the last time you have truly worshipped? Prayers that are constantly focused on ourselves never bring worship to the Lord. Prayers that give thanks and praise to God will restore us. These types of prayers will provide worship to God. Isaiah 40:31 *"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*
7. **We will have confirmation:** There is a blessing that comes with worship. Abraham was given a blessing when he was willing to give his all to God. Genesis 22:17-18 *"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."*