

יהוה יראה

Yahweh Yireh—The LORD Provides

Intro

- “Will I have enough?”
- There are things that we *strive* for, and when we have them, we’re more anxious than before.

“We never imagine that getting our heart’s deepest desires might be the worst thing that can ever happen to us.” –**Timothy Keller**, *Counterfeit Gods*, 1

Genesis 22

The LORD Calls

“I will show you”

“Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.’” (Gen. 12:1)

- God called Abram to leave behind what felt familiar and secure.
- Faith requires seeing unseen realities.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. 2 For by it the people of old received their commendation. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.” (Heb. 11:1-3)

“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” (Heb. 11:8)

The LORD Tests

"I will tell you"

Waiting

- The promise of a son: longing, identity, & hope...
- 15 years.... 25 years....

"After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your very great reward." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" 3 And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." 4 And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." 5 And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." 6 And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness." (Gen. 15:1-6)

*"God promised not merely to give Abram a reward, but to be Abram's Reward. There was no greater blessing possible. God would Himself be the inheritance and portion of Abram and his seed." -Edmund Clowney, *Unfolding Mystery*, 46*

- While Abraham is watching God move with blessing in the lives of others, he has been in a time of waiting.

"Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, and also healed his wife and female slaves so that they bore children. 18 For the Lord had closed all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife." (Gen. 20:17-18)

- Birth of Isaac—Laughter overcomes Sorrow!

Offering

- "Take your son, your only one, whom you love, Isaac..."
- A burnt offering: A symbol of consecration, something totally devoted to the Lord.
- A test of supreme affections.

"The greatest adversary of love to God is not his enemies but his gifts."
 –**John Piper**, *Hunger for God: Desiring God Through Fasting and Prayer*, 14

"The reality of Abraham's obedience was the act itself; and what God knew in knowing that Abraham 'would obey' was Abraham's actual obedience on that mountain top at that moment. To say that God 'need not have tried the experiment' is to say that because God knows, the thing known by God need not exist." –**C.S. Lewis**, *The Problem of Pain*, 102

"God wills to know the actual, lived-out reality of our preference for him over all things. And he wills that we have the testimony of our own authenticity through acts of actual preference of God over his gifts."
 –**John Piper**, *Hunger for God: Desiring God Through Fasting and Prayer*, 18

- God is kind to us not to let any created thing be our hope.
 - *Adoniram Judson, missionary to Burma*

"Our hearts were bound up with this child; we felt he was our earthly all, our only source of innocent recreation in this heathen land. But God saw it was necessary to remind us of our error, and to strip us of our only little all. O, may it not be vain that he has done it. May we so improve it that he will stay his hand and say 'It is enough.'" –Ann Judson

The LORD Provides

"I will see to it"

- "Behold, I don't see..." "The LORD will see to it..."
- "We will certainly return..."

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18 of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." 19 He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back." (Heb. 11:17-19)

- In providing Isaac, God had already raised the dead:

"As it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb." (Rom. 6:17-19)

- On that same mountain 2,000 years later, another firstborn Son would ascend the hill carrying wood on his back...
- Yahweh Yireh—the LORD provides.... our greatest need.

"He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

"God saw Abraham's sacrifice and said, 'Now I know that you love me, because you did not withhold your only son from me.' But how much more can we look at *his* sacrifice on the Cross, and say to God, 'Now *we* know that you love *us*. For you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love, from us.' When the magnitude of what he did dawns on us, it makes it possible finally to rest our hearts in him rather than in anything else."

–**Timothy Keller**, *Counterfeit Gods*, 18

The blood of Jesus, it is like the widow's oil:
It's enough to pay the price to set you free
It can fill up every jar and every heart that ever beat
When it's all you have it's all you'll ever need

–**Andrew Peterson**, "All You'll Ever Need"

Discussion Guide

- Where do you most feel your need for *provision*?
- What is a category for either "waiting" (you haven't received it yet) or "offering" (it's been taken away) for you? How has the Lord used that to test your heart and strengthen your faith? How have you responded?
- What is important about the context for the name "Yahweh Yireh—the LORD Provides"? In other words, what does Genesis 22 teach us is the *main thing* that God provides? How should that influence how we see our needs and God's provision?
- How are you currently being *affected* by the cross of Christ? What does meditating on the truth of the Gospel look like for you right now, and how is that affecting how you see the demands you face in life?