

AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE, JUNE 17, 2018, FATHERS' DAY

Sermon Series: Better Living

Sermon title : ABRAHAM TESTED FOR BETTER LIVING

Text Hebrews 11:8-19 p. 1293

Leader: Every good and perfect gift comes to us from God.

People: Thanks be to God for the beauty and diversity of creation.

Leader: Thanks be to God for our ancestors of faith.

People: Thanks be to God for loving families and Faithful Fathers.

Leader: Thanks be to God for meaningful work.

People: Thanks be to God for the variety of talents within the body of Christ.

Leader: Thanks be to God for freedom of conscience, speech and worship.

People: Thanks be to God for calling us to BETTER LIVING.

All: With thankful hearts let us worship and praise the Lord our God!

Prayer of Confession

God of great love, we clearly remember the times when we have thought you to be less than loving. We recall with pain the dark times in our lives when we could not see your light; nor did we seek it. We remember with remorse the occasions when we did not recognize the small pleasures of our abundant life. We confess that we have been quick to criticize and hasty to condemn. Forgive us for all that has come before and grant us grace to go forward in your forgiving love into BETTER LIVING. AMEN.

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You will need a pen or pencil to complete this outline.

OPENING FATHER'S DAY MEDITATION, Romans 4:11 *"(Abraham) ... he is the father of all who believe."*

INTRODUCTION: BETTER LIVING: how do you know you if you are there? The life of Abraham illustrates four ways God tests our faith -- to see if it's real or not. That testing demonstrated that Abraham was really there. You'll face these same tests in your lifetime not because you have been bad, of God doesn't like you, but rather, to let you know you are there; Better Living.

Genesis 15:6 *"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*

1. THE TEST OF A MAJOR CHANGE

Hebrew 11:8 *"By faith, Abraham when he was called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went even though he did not know where he was going."*

For Study: Genesis 12:1-7

* A real believer will _____ without knowing
_____.

2. TEST #2 IS A DELAYED PROMISE

V. 9 *"By faith, Abraham made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country and he lived in tents as did Isaac and Jacob who were heirs with him of the same promise."*

For Study: Genesis 13 & 14

* A real believer will _____ without knowing
_____.

3. TEST #3 AN IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM

v. 11-12 *"By faith, Abraham, even though he was past age, and Sarah herself was barren, was enabled to become a father because he considered Him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man and he as good as dead came his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore."*

For Study: Genesis 17:15-22, 18: 1-15, & 21: 1- 6

* A real believer will _____ without knowing _____.

4. TEST 4# WHY? A SENSELESS TRAGEDY

Hebrews 11:17 *"By faith, Abraham, when God tested him [circle "tested"] he offered Isaac as the sacrifice. He who had received the promise was about to sacrifice his one and only son. Even though God had said to him, 'It's through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned'. Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead and figurative speaking he did receive Isaac back from the dead."*

For Study: Genesis 22:1-19

* A real believer will _____ without knowing _____.

PRAYER: Living Loving God, When I am tested and for all who are being tested comfort us with BETTER LIVING. AMEN.

FOUR FOR THE ROAD: 1. Do you know anyone who has been tested?

2. How where they or you tested?

3. Why does God test believers?

4. In what way could you encourage someone going through a time of testing?

