

Genesis 22:14
Seeing and Providing

Sermon

Hobart, March 18th, 2011

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OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Genesis 22:1-14

¹ Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called.

"Yes," he replied. "Here I am."

² "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."

³ The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back."

⁶ So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, ⁷ Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?"

"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.

"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"

⁸ "God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together.

⁹ When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ At that moment the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

¹² "Don't lay a hand on the boy!" the angel said. "Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son."

¹³ Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

¹⁴ Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means "the LORD will provide"). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."¹

¹Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (Ge 22:1-14). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

New Testament Reading:

I Corinthians 12:1-7

¹ Now, dear brothers and sisters,^{*} regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. ² You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. ³ So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.²

^{*} Greek *brothers*.

²Tyndale House Publishers. (2004). *Holy Bible : New Living Translation*. "Text edition"--Spine. (2nd ed.) (1 Co 12:1-7). Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House Publishers.

INTRODUCTION:

I. YAHWEH-JIREH

A. THE WORD, JIREH, IN JIREH HOUSE, HAS AN INTERESTING AND APPROPRIATE MEANING AND ORIGIN

1. It originates from when Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, and at the last moment, God provided a ram as a substitute sacrifice
2. So Abraham named the location, *Yahweh-Jireh*
 - a) Interestingly, this later became the location of Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified as the ultimate provision for the needs of all mankind

Genesis 22:14

¹⁴ Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the LORD will provide”). To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”

B. IN HEBREW IT CAN ALSO MEAN; “GOD WILL SEE”;

1. i.e., God sees our needs ahead of time, and provides for those needs.
2. as vs 14 itself explains;
 - a) “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.”
3. Or as some have put it; “Man's extremity is God's opportunity.”³

³ <http://www.answers.com/topic/john-flavel>,

S.P.S:

A. IN THE LIGHT OF THE VISIT FROM JIREH HOUSE TODAY, AND LYNETTE'S PRESENTATION

1. I thought it would be good to talk about our calling as Christians to be partners with God in providing for those in need

B. PRAYER

BODY:

II. GOD'S TRUE NATURE

A. CHRISTIANITY IS SO OFTEN PERCEIVED TO BE A RELIGION IN WHICH WE ALL FOLLOW GOD'S RULES

1. In order to please him, to be acceptable, and hopefully make it into heaven,
2. God is seen as the supreme omnipotent, sovereign ruler and judge
 - a) Who we must obey at all costs or suffer the consequences

B. JESUS CAME TO SHOW THAT GOD IS NOT WHO WE PICTURE HIM TO BE

1. Jesus, God in human form, came to show us what the Father is really like
2. He spent his life showing that God is love,
 - a) That he created us out of love, to be loved, and to love
3. Jesus showed that God is Father, Son, and Spirit
 - a) God, as love, is seen in his being,
 - b) In the fact that he is family, a triune communion
4. Jesus showed that God's loving nature involves his sending his Son to be with us, so we could be with him

a) Like Abraham, we are in need of God stepping in provide for us

(1) **To be a substitute sacrifice, to take our place in death, to be our saviour**

5. God saw our extreme need in advance, and provided for us

a) He sent his Son die for us out of love and compassion, in order to rescue us from the suffering, pain and frustration that result from our living selfishly, and on our own, apart from him

6. Throughout his life, Jesus continually displayed God's desire and power to provide, to help, to heal, to forgive and restore our lives

C. SIN IS WHEN WE REFUSE THAT HELP

1. God's love continually tells us that sin is not breaking a bunch of religious rules and standards, but it is refusing his love, and the life of blessings, peace and relationship with him

D. GOD NOT ONLY WANTS US TO RECEIVE AND BE BLESSED BY HIS LOVING PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES

1. He wants us to be in his image, to be like his Son

a) To think and live that same way of love that he does

2. We saw how God saw and provided for Abraham in Genesis 22

a) Through his Spirit he helps us see the needs of others, and works with us to participate in his work of helping provide those needs

E. THE OTHER WEEK KEVIN SPOKE ABOUT THE GOOD SAMARITAN

1. Jesus told the parable in order to help us better understand the life of love we are called to participate in with him and the Father, through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit

F. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE LESSONS THAT WE LEARN FROM THE STORY OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN?

1. One lesson is as Scott McKnight puts it is that

We are not called to the love of *Torah* [law], but to the *Torah* [law] of love.

2. He adds;

Jesus calls us to surrender our “safe neighbour love,” which the priest and Levite were doing when they looked straight ahead; Jesus calls us instead *to look to the side* to see our neighbour who is in need, which is what the Samaritan did.⁴

G. WE ARE TO AVOID THE RELIGIOUS, LEGALISTIC APPROACH

1. In which we decide how we serve and obey God based on narrow rules

a) And serve those we approve of

b) And focus most of our efforts on our own “spiritual needs”

c) Shutting our eyes to those who have need

H. JESUS BATTLED WITH THE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE OF HIS DAY OVER SUCH ATTITUDES AND APPROACHES

1. He caused great uproar and offence when he spent time with the poor and the outcasts of his society

2. He told the rich young ruler who wanted to know what good things he needed to do to inherit eternal life, to go and sell all he had, give the money to the poor, and follow him

3. He made clear that the heart and core of God’s will and law is for us to love God with all our being, and to love our neighbour as ourselves

I. THE APOSTLES

1. wrote continually about the importance of sharing the life and love of God with those who most needed it

a) John talked about how it is impossible to love God without loving our neighbour

⁴ Scott McKnight, *The Jesus Creed*, p.54

J. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. gifts and empowers us to serve one another, to love and strengthen and help those in need

I Corinthians 12:7

⁷ A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

2. Different ones of us are given differing gifts

V4-6

⁴ There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. ⁶ God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

3. In the next chapter, Paul makes plain that the greatest spiritual gift is love
 - a) Love is God himself, God working and serving and uplifting others, bringing them a part of his life

K. EACH ONE OF US HAS A PART TO PLAY IN THE WORK OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. In being part of God's reaching out to those who are needy and lost
2. In seeking to bring a little more of his life and kingdom into our world
3. We can't influence or save the whole world
 - a) In fact we can't really save anyone, but God can use us to be his instruments in his influencing and saving work

L. JAMES BRYAN SMITH

God has created a world in which we are the ones who care for one another. To put it another way, God cares for us *through* one another.⁵

M. WE CAN SOW GRAINS OF MUSTARD SEED HERE AND THERE

1. Having our ears and eyes open for opportunities to provide for others

⁵ James Bryan Smith, *Embracing One Another*

2. Sharing the love of God in us,
3. Encouraging those who are struggling
4. Helping the disenfranchised, the abused, the helpless
5. Applying our gifts to serving others
6. Carrying out acts of kindness, no matter how small they may be

III. "CARE BAG MINISTRY"

A. WE HAVE A SMALL BUT ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE OF PROVIDING FOR THOSE IN NEED IN OUR "CARE BAG MINISTRY"

1. There is more to it than meets the eye;
2. It is a group effort, built on the foundation of God's love,

B. KEVIN HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO LEAD AND ORGANISE THE PROJECT

1. He has spent countless hours phoning and visiting and building relationships with those agencies and businesses that can contribute items for the bags
 - a) And in co-ordinating the making and filling of the bags and distributing them to Jireh House and Bethlehem House

C. ANNE

1. Liaises with Decorama for materials for making the bags, then spends many hours cutting the material and sewing it into bags
 - a) overviews numbers required, how many we have in stock etc. She then hands them on to

D. SHIRLEY AND JULIE

1. Who incorporate the draw strings in the bags.

E. BILL

1. Prints out cards in the name of the Mornington Community Church, with a comment and Christian radio station frequencies, and our Hobart web site, and gives them to

F. SUE

1. Who writes hand written comforting scriptures on the cards.

G. ROSALIE

1. Arranges to obtain towelling material and then makes face washers for the bags, overviews numbers required, in stock etc.

H. CONGREGATION

1. Place personal care items in the bags, (monthly or bi-monthly) for distribution.
2. Ladies bags incorporate 20 items
3. Men's bags include 16 items.

I. DISTRIBUTION

1. For the period April 2011 to end of March 2012, 200 bags will have been distributed

CONCLUSION:

IV. PRAYER

A. TIME TO PRAY FOR LYNNETTE AND JENNY AND THE STAFF AT JIREH HOUSE

B. FOR THE "CARE BAG" MINISTRY

1. For those who help put them together
2. And for those who receive them, the women at Jireh House and Bethlehem House



NOTES

C. PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY LIFE OF GOD

1. Graham Buxton

D. N.T. WRIGHT

1. Cycle;