

Faithful and Fruitful Servant of God: Study from Abraham's Faith

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Abstract

In the Bible describes many people who were rejected, weak, sinners but finally God changed and made their works become fruitful and significant to other people and generations who live after them even until now. Faith and a life that would give sacrifice to the Lord are the key made different and significant. Learning from Abraham's Faith and Sacrificial to the Lord are one of the great examples in the Bible. By knowing this story, it will enable believers to keep walking and serving God faithfully and sacrificially and fruitfully.

Keywords: Faith, Sacrifice, Reward.

INTRODUCTION

How did Abraham respond when God ask him immediately to go and sacrifice his son only Isaac in region Moria. Did Abraham argue, negotiate or give rationalize reasons (even he could, because he waited for years, etc) to postpone or to ignore God's command? No, He didn't do that instead responding with faithfully attitudes toward God's command and the result God bless many tribes or nations because Abraham's faith and sending the Savior Jesus through his descendants. It can be said that God's promises would be fulfilled in our or others' lives when we faithfully obey God's commands. Abraham faithfully responded towards God's commands then the result of it God blesses many nations and tribes through Abraham' faith. Let me give you a story when two missionaries responded faithfully to toward God's commands that asked them to go in a country where so far from their country and many unreached people groups lived in that country then finally there are huge impacts as they responded God's commands in years to come in that country. I would like tell the story because there are many great promises of God would occur when Christian faithfully respond toward God's command.

In 1834 there were Baptist missionaries from Boston United State left

their country to preach the Gospel to South East Asia (Indonesia) they were Samuel Munson and Henry Lyman. It was going to be the last time for them to be in US and never come back again. After 105 days journey in the ocean, they arrived in Indonesia and went to Batak Land (a tribe land in Indonesia). Then preached the gospel to several kings and people there. Haven't yet one week in Batak Land.

In 23 June 1834, they were killed by local people and they ate their bodies. It may look useless journey by looking at the duration and the they finally died only in a week! However, 31 years after that, there was massive repentance and baptism to many local people in the land where two missionaries had been killed. It was believed that God "cursed" that local people because ate and drank the blood of His servants. It believed also God put "the blood of mission" into batak descendants because their forefather drank the blood of missionaries. Indeed, it is fulfilled then, today there are 4.2 million Batak are Christian and there are 3129 Lutheran Batak Churches around the globe from Indonesia, Singapore, In the US and Europe! And even known also that many Christian missionaries, teachers and theologians in Indonesia are Batakness.

Within 183 years, God made remarkable impact to a nation (Indonesia)

through the obedience of two missionaries which were responding to God's commands by doing mission in Indonesia. This message tells us when God ask you to do something great for Him and it may be a costly and risky task for you to do, say YES to God because He has a great plan through ask you to do something even unfamiliar or strange to be done. Let me share to you on how to response when God ask you to do something great for Him by learning from Abraham.

1. The Responding Faith (Gen 22:1-6)

a. Listening carefully God's voices (Gen 22:1-3)

It is recoded in the Bible that God spoke to Abraham wanted him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham listened that command carefully. Although Bible did not mentioned how God spoke to Abraham technically whether in dreams or just when doing something. Nevertheless, The Bible recorded that Abraham had responded before to God's command that asked him to leave his owncity (Gen 22:1-4). It described that Abraham was responsive to God's commands. It indicated also Abraham had learned and familiarized with the voice of God. Listening and recognizing God's commands need much time and experience with God by committing to do his commands.

b. Putting into Actions Immediately (Gen 22:4-6)

Abraham putting his obedience into actions. It is recorded in Gen 22:3 that on the following day Abraham started to work out his obedience into action. Abraham did not ask why, argue or bargain to God's command him to do instead putting into actions by preparing the equipment to fulfil God's instructions. It indicates that God wants every believer to response of every God's command into real actions than too many times in asking, arguing or bargaining towards God's commands.

c. Willing to have Risks (Gen 22:7-8)

There were many that Abraham must receive of responding God's commands. first, emotionally Abraham had to offer his only and beloved son. Even it was not explained in the text about Abraham's feeling in that situation, it could be say a risky action. How Abraham should explain to Sarah about his journey? Was Abraham telling the truth to her that God wanted Abraham sacrifice Isaac? In that three journeys, Abraham must be sad and crying because he was going to kill his only son by his own hand! H

These stories were not mentioned in Genesis 22 but it still indicating a sad atmosphere to the reader. Secondly, it was three days journey that doing by a man with 100 years old. It may benot an easy journey because Abraham should climb a mountain of Moria also. Where was Moria? Some believed

as a mountain and others believe just a as “symbol” Whatever it was, Abraham spend time and efforts to reach that place. Second, Physically, it must be not an easy trip to him. It recorded also took three days journey Gen 22:4, Again, Faith in God drives and energizes Abraham to do God’s command. Abraham obeyed faithfully God’s command by preparing the things for journey such wood as well his son to be sacrificed as a burnt offering. Interestingly, the story Isaac brought the wood by himself and walked with his father described to us how Jesus also brought the “wood” cross with him to be a sacrifice for human’s sin. It indicates to us that God wants believer totally submitted and obey whatever the cost that would be taken of doing God’s commands.

d. Believing to God’s Provision

The remarkable faith of Abraham to God’s provision clearly mentioned in verse 8 by saying “God himself will provide the burnt offering”. It was given to answer Isaac who asked about the burnt offering but to me it was the faith Abraham that believe God will provide that offering. Abraham believe that God will provide the lamb for the burnt offering by working out completely and faithfully that God instructed him to do and hoped in his heart that God will provide the lamb while doing God’s command. It indicates that God wants all believer believe in every task or sacrifices that God wanted to

give and to do, God will provide and reward whether in this life or in the heaven.

II. Reward in Responding God’s command results in provision and promises (Gen 22:11 17)

God gave provision by providing the lamb (Gen 22:12) and lavished Abraham with great promises. The lamb that given to Abraham indicates that God will prepare “materials” or logistic that needed to do the missions. In many times of God’s calling to many Christians does not automatically shows the materials or logistic in advance but when as people believe and walk in God’s commands, God will provide the needs for doing God’s mission. Finally, God will bless and lavish the work of mission as Jesus also promise that He will continue to bless wherever people spread the gospel (Matthew 28:20). May it will not be coming suddenly but will come become greater days, months, or even years as it has been occurring in many areas and countries around the world. It indicates that God wants all believer not to think too much about towards the materials things first when God asks us to do mission but rather to walk by faith provide whatever the needs of having mission. It indicates also that God wants every Christian knowing, walking and believing that God will bless lavishly every fields that gospel is preached whether in soon or later.

CONCLUSION

God's promises would be fulfilled in our or others' lives when we faithfully obey God's commands us to do. By having faith and be willing to sacrifice or obey to God of his commands are the key to reap the rewards. However, many things sometimes that God wants to do are not easily to be understood. God will open the meaning happily in the end. that God will.