

WHO OR WHAT IS YOUR ISAAC?  
HEBREWS 11:17-19

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

Introduction:

1. Most of us are familiar with the story of God calling Abraham to take his son up on Mt. Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice to God.
2. Of course we understood that God was only testing Abraham's faith and commitment.
3. So many children of God say they love God, yet their lack of true commitment to Him tells a different story.
4. I recently read a post on Facebook that said, "Don't tell me you love God when you won't even come to church and worship Him."
5. It seems to me that some have their Isaacs and refuse to lay them down on the altar.

I. OUR FAMILY CAN BE OUR ISAAC. **Luke 14:26** *If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.*

A. Abraham loved Isaac immensely, yet when God put him to the test Abraham proved his love to God. **Genesis 22:1-3** *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.*

- B. There was no pause for concern, there was no doubt. He simply believed God and obeyed.
- C. How about your family? Have you placed them above God? Are you teaching them that God isn't that important and church is only important when there is nothing else going on in their lives?
- D. All love must be subordinated to love for God. He who would be a friend of God must love nothing better than God, nor hold back anything which God's service demands.

II. OUR JOB CAN BE OUR ISAAC. **Matthew 6:19-21** *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

- A. Most people seek employment to earn a comfortable living, but there are others who only want to amass a fortune so they can buy all the toys they want.
- B. A heart that is designed for God and eternity is totally degraded by being fixed on those things which are subject to corruption.
- C. Laying up treasures on earth means the piling up of worldly wealth for worldly purposes.
- D. Why would anyone choose to spend all their time and energy amassing a fortune, only to have it burned up in the end? **1 Timothy 6:8-10** *And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For*

*the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

III. SELF CAN BE OUR ISAAC. **Mark 8:34-35** *When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

- A. God is our Creator; we did not create ourselves. Many people live as though they are the creator and center of their own little world.
- B. This kind of self-centered life leads to wrong actions such as lying, cheating, stealing, gossiping, taking revenge, being abusive, and indulging in sexual immorality.
- C. We should be willing to lose our life for the sake of the gospel, not because our life is useless, but because nothing—not even life itself—can compare to what we gain with Jesus.
- D. Jesus wants us to choose to follow Him rather than to lead a life of sin and self-satisfaction. He wants us to stop trying to control our own destiny and to let Him direct us. **Matthew 16:24** *Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

Conclusion:

1. Laying our Isaac down starts with recognition that we have sinned in placing our family, our job, or ourselves above God.
2. As with all sin, repentance is needed.
3. A person who repents stops rebelling and begins following God's way of living, prescribed in His Word.
4. The first step in turning to God is admitting your sin. Then God will receive you and help you to live the way He wants you to.
5. Remember that only God can get rid of sin. He doesn't expect us to clean up our life before we come to Him. It's time to lay your Isaac down.