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**Isaac:  
But Where is  
the Lamb?**

**# 708-A**

**Series: God's Living Legends (Part 1)**

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# But Where is the Lamb?

The pages of Scripture reveal the heart of God. One of the most dynamic truths about God that we will ever learn is that His primary concern is people. The Bible is not primarily a history book, although it is essentially the most important, the most dynamic lesson in history ever written. The Bible is not primarily a science book, though it probably better explains most of the marvels of science than any other source available to us. What the Bible is, is God's revelation to man. It reveals man as he is, God as He is and man as he can become in Jesus Christ. So the essential element is people, and the essential ingredient is character, God's character and man's character. That is why wherever you go in Scripture there rises to the surface reflections of character through the revelation of the lives of men. We refer to them as Living Legends. On the surface they seem like interesting stories; but as the Holy Spirit lifts them off the page and into the context of experience, these Living Legends become Living Lessons as well.

We not only see God working through a direct study of these personalities such as we did with Adam, Cain, Noah, Lot, and Ishmael; but also as you study them you learn lessons about those who walk alongside of them as well. We have walked right next to Abraham now for several lessons, first in the lesson on Lot and then on the study of Ishmael and the "All Things of Life". So while we are not doing a direct study of Abraham, we are perhaps learning more about him by seeing him through the eyes of those who walked with him. That may well be true in this lesson as we take our first look at Isaac, Abraham's promised son.

This lesson of Genesis 22 is titled, But Where is the Lamb? The outline is as follows:

- I- The Crisis: The Story Itself
  - A- The Timing (Genesis 22:1-2)
  - B- The Test (Genesis 22:2-8)

## But Where is the Lamb?

C- The Testimony (Genesis 22:9-14)

D- The Tribute (Genesis 22:15-19)

## II- The Cast

A- Isaac's Father and A Portrait of Faith

B- Abraham's Son and A Portrait of Submission

C- Abraham's Father and A Portrait of Grace

## III- But Where Is the Lamb?

The story itself is a familiar one. It is so familiar that we might be tempted to pass over it without searching for new truth or dismissing previous knowledge as if we had already applied it. Familiar it is, but inexhaustible as well. Let's begin by simply reading the passage through and asking God to recreate a mental photograph of this beautiful story. We will begin by reading in Genesis 22:1:

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid *it* upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

## But Where is the Lamb?

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here *am* I.

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son* from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*:

That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:1-18)

This is the story of the love of God written to all who will ever be called to the altar of testing. But I believe it is also a special letter from God to all who are or ever will be parents. It begins first of all with a look at the timing of God. Verse 1 says, *It came about after these things that God tested Abraham.* After what things? After Abraham and Sarah had been childless for all those years. After having been given their nephew to raise and seeing Lot pitch his tent with the world. After helping God out by bearing a son out of the flesh, then having to send him away forever. Then after nearly one hundred years of waiting, when all of the hope was gone, the son of the promise came. He was the

## But Where is the Lamb?

son of their dreams, the apple of their aging eyes, Isaac. In other words, just the other side of the miracle, God tested Abraham.

This is so often the pattern God sets before us. First is the agony of despair, then the end of hope and finally, the miracle of deliverance and the ecstasy of answered prayer. Then, so often, there is a return to reality and a time of testing. Abraham's hope had been in God for one hundred years. The question now was, was his faith in God through Isaac a call for a test? Don't ever pray for a miracle and then put your trust in the miracle. Don't ever pray for an experience and then put your trust in that experience. Don't ever pray for a person and then put your trust in that person. Remember that tests are always to remind us God Is. Not that God has, not that God does, but that God IS.

So the God of perfect timing taps Abraham while he is still basking on the mountain top of miracles and says, "Do you remember? This is a test." Now God has many ways to get our attention. He has a brick bat for those of us who are spiritually hard of hearing. He has a bolt of lightning for those of us who can hear but only after He arrests our attention. He has the still small voice for those who are so tuned to His Word that they move at a whisper. You guessed it. Abraham was one of those who moved at a whisper. "Abraham," God whispered. That was all He had to say. Verse 1 goes on to say that Abraham answers, "*Here I am.*" A loose translation might be, "At your service, Lord." He didn't know what God wanted, but it didn't matter. His response was still the same, "*Here I am, Lord.*" Now Abraham answers three times in this one passage, "*Here I am.*" "*Here I am.*" "*Here I am.*" Twice to God and once to Isaac. This was an available man.

Personally, God has to do much to get my attention. Unless my teeth rattle in the quake of the crisis, I don't usually respond. Or it takes a thorn that God has sent to twist in me until it hurts again and again before I scratch my head and say, "Oh, is that You, Lord?"

Abraham never had to re-enlist. He just reported to duty. He was always on call. Verse 2 tells us what God wanted with Abraham. To the man of the world, it would look like God wanted to spoil his party and dash cold water on the fire of his faith or play sadistic games of "Keep Away" with an old man. God's men know better. They know that all we own belongs to God. If He gives it, He gives it for His glory and for our good. If He takes

## But Where is the Lamb?

it, He takes it for His glory as well. *The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.* The man who said that wasn't attending a praise party. His name was Job. God had just allowed Satan to take his children, his riches, his servants, and his cattle. A few days later, he lost his health, too. In Job 2:10 he answered his nagging wife with these words, *Shall we indeed accept good from God, and not accept adversity?* I think that is a fantastic verse to memorize. *Shall we indeed accept good from God, and not accept adversity?* That is God's perspective.

Now back to Abraham, in verse 2 God outlines what He is after. He says, "Okay, Abraham, I want you to take your son, your only son, the son you love, Isaac." That alone was enough to send cold chills down Abraham's spine. Even before God told him *what* he was supposed to do, He told him *who* it would involve. He says it four times, "I want you to take your son. I want you to take your *only* son. I want you to take the son you love. I want you to take Isaac." In other words, I want you to take your possession. I want you to take your *sole* possession. I want you to take your prize possession. I want you to take Isaac.

Now here is the test itself. "Take Isaac and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you. I will let you know about that later," instructs God. There are two vital implications in this verse. The first one is the unknown aspect of obedience. Just as he had done with Abraham before, God called him to go without a full set of instructions. God promised to fill in the blanks later on. That is the real test of a man's obedience. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. When we know exactly what God has in store for us, we can decide whether or not to obey. But, when all God says is, "Follow Me." that is a different story. "Follow Me to Moriah," God said, "and when you get there, I will show you which mountain." This way you have to stay plugged in to Me to get your next set of instructions.

The second aspect of this verse is the test. The test surfaces what it was God wanted him to do with his son. Now all of you who are parents, please listen. God was not asking Abraham to dedicate his son. That would have been sweet. He was asking him to give him up. This was not a time of commitment. This was beyond commitment. God was saying to Abraham, "He is My child, not yours. I have given you the guardianship for a time. Now here is your next instructions as a guardian. Sacrifice him

## But Where is the Lamb?

for Me, a burnt offering. Abraham, you waited one hundred years for a son. Now you have him, the answer to your prayers.” I think in essence God was saying, “Abraham, I am going to ask you three questions.” Here are the questions God was asking.

1- Who is more important to you, the child, or Me? That is a tough question. You may pray for a wife. God gives you a wife, but not to take His place. You may pray for a child as Abraham did, but you must not now let the child or the children become your god. You pray for a job. God gives it to you, but now you focus your hopes on what that job can produce. You may pray to get into medical school or law school and God says, “Yes.” Now does your career become the consuming thing in your life? How sad. Be not surprise if God speaks to you quietly as He did to Abraham and says, “Make a choice.”

2- I believe God was asking, “Who really owns your children?” Do you pray more for their success than for their salvation? Do you pray more for their circumstances than you do for their character? More that they become blessed than tested? What would mean more for you, for Johnny to be the captain of a baseball team, or the most used of God in years to come? For Suzy to be the best looking girl and the most popular girl in her class, or for her to be the most used of God in days to come? What if to be the most used for God means a handicap, or an emotional weakness, or tragic rejection? What if the soil of their lives must be dug with sharp tools for deep roots, will you stay out of God’s way? Or better still, will you cooperate with the digging? Who are we protecting anyhow, them or us? God owns our children. He has placed them on loan. We have temporary custody. Our primary assignment is to see to it that God is everything by our lips and by our lives.

3- How do we give our children back to God? I will give you three steps.

1) Assume that you never had title in the first place. They have always been His. We just thank Him for every day, every hour He gives us to care for them. Whatever we do unto them, unto the least of these, we do unto Him. They never were ours. Reckon it so.

2) Build an altar of remembrance and acknowledge once and for all that they belong to God. Maybe you can make a plaque of a story of Abraham and Isaac. You don’t need to fill in the blanks,



## But Where is the Lamb?

but put it on the wall and every time you and your spouse look at that plaque, let it say to you, “Those children have been given to God.” You can write out a love letter to God and thank Him for the privilege of temporary custody. Maybe you could make a transfer of title. An example of this is:

I, \_\_\_\_\_,

*do hereby acknowledge that my beloved son or daughter belongs to Jesus Christ. I do hereby acknowledge God’s prior ownership and release into His hands, all of the rights and privileges that accompany such ownership. I hereby pledge my availability to, by word and deed, point my child in all things and through all things to Jesus Christ. I likewise ask for the grace not to interfere with God’s work in their lives, they belong to Him.*

*Dear Father, do with them as you choose.*

*Signed, \_\_\_\_\_*

3) Be more concerned that they become like Him, than they become like us. I mean that. I’ve cursed my children with the unholy pressure of conforming to me as well as to God. I judge their spirituality by how much like mine were their vocabulary, their taste in spiritual things, their methods of ministry. God made each child unique. He made each child different, designed with a destiny. Our role is to shape them Christward. It is God’s role to create the finished product.

My friend, here was the test of tests, “Give Me back your son, you have had him long enough.” There is no record in Scripture that Abraham so much as even whimpered. There are not recorded arguments. Abraham did not so much as say, “But why God? Why would you make me wait so long for something I wanted so much, only to make it all I dreamed it would be and then take it back?” There was none of that from Abraham.

The next recorded word is in verse 3. *Abraham rose early.* That is not surprising. He always rose early. *He saddled his donkey.* Now this was not the kind of saddle you and I think

## But Where is the Lamb?

about. It was a big, heavy blanket they threw over the back of a donkey. *He took two of his young men with him. He took Isaac his son. And he split wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place God told him.* Here was a man of about one hundred years old. Some of you who think that you are in good physical condition, pay close attention. Here was a man of about one hundred years old, but when God calls him, he hops out of bed, took an ax and split his own wood. He got his people together and went exactly to the place God told him to go. There is so much of Jonah in most of us and so little of Abraham in so many of us when God calls us.

This was no hop-down-the-freeway trip. Verse 4 indicates that it was on the third day, the third long, hot, day, that this one hundred year old man has patiently journeyed to the place where God was asking him to give up the one thing in life he cherished the most. His vision must have still been pretty good, better than mine. Verse 4 says, *And he raised up his eyes and he saw the place from a distance.* There must have been a lot of words from the voice of The Stranger going on in Abraham's mind, but he pressed on.

In verse 5 he tells the two young men to stay here with the donkey, singular. I think that it interesting. If there were only one donkey, they must have had to put all the wood and all the supplies on that donkey. Then, this hundred year old man was walking for those three days. Then he defines for them the purpose of the trip up the mountain. He tells the young men, "I and the lad will go yonder. We will worship and return to you." I'm not sure what your definition of worship is, but this verse shatters mine. Abraham says, "I will go up before God and give Him back all that He has given me and I will have worshipped. I will go up and do exactly what God has asked me to do and I will have worshipped." By doing so, Abraham was acknowledging that God was the creator and he was the creation, that God was the owner and he was the owned. He thus acknowledged that God alone was worthy. That is worship. It is not the stating of certain words in certain settings where others can hear you; it is the yielding of the reins of the will to a sovereign God in all of His majesty and His love. That is worship. So in the very truest sense, they did go up the mountain to worship.

The end of this verse is the most phenomenal in all of the passage. He said to the young men, "*We will return to you.*"

## But Where is the Lamb?

Abraham stated that he and the boy would return to them. We will read in a few minutes from Hebrews 11 and confirm that Abraham did not know what God was going to do. But Abraham fully knew that even should the knife do its work and Isaac die, God would resurrect him. Abraham knew this because God had made a promise and God's test was not to see if Abraham was brave enough to slay his son, it was to see if Abraham believed God enough so that he knew that even should the promise die before his eyes, God, whose promises have never failed, would do something even more beautiful to keep His Word. Oh, for that kind of faith.

*"We will return to you."*

Then Abraham took the wood and he laid it on his son Isaac. He took in his hand the fire and the knife. The two of them walked on together.

Now I don't know how difficult it is for you to visual this trip up the mountain. Here was a father and son on a hike together. The boy is carrying the wood on his back (the same wood that is about to be used for a fire to sacrifice him to the Lord.) They must have walked a long way in relative silence. Then the boy, excited in his heart about this new worship experience, (the dad praying to be faithful when the moment of truth actually came), breaks the silence, "My father." Abraham answered, "Here am I, son." "Behold the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" Abraham answered, "God will provide for Himself the lamb." So the two of them walked on together. There is the question of the ages, Where is the lamb? The answer of the ages is that God will provide the lamb Himself. No change in Abraham's step, no wavering in his faith. He was not sure how God would do it, but he was so sure that God was in control that never once is there evidence that he ever thought of turning back. I am convinced that the real test for Abraham was not on the altar; it was going up the mountain. It is that climb up to do the will of God where the emotions cry out, "Turn back!" It is often the ruin of many Christians.

Verse 9 says, *They came to the place where God had told them and Abraham built an altar there. He was used to that. He arranged the wood and he bound his son Isaac, He tied him up with a rope. You parents think about this carefully. You visualize your child as we read this next verse. He laid him bound on the*

## But Where is the Lamb?

*altar on top of the wood. And Abraham stretched his hand and took the knife to slay his son.* Can you visualize that? I want you to take note of two things. First of all, the timing of God's intervention was crucial. He didn't interrupt the proceeding until the last available second. He never does. He could have tapped Abraham on the shoulder about half-way up the mountain and said, "Hey, old man, I was just teasing. I never thought you would make it this far." No, God's tests are relative to the place his saints occupy in His heart. Neither Job or Abraham were lightly tested, for neither of them were lightly regarded by God. Those that God loves, He tests. Those He trusts much, He tests much.

How few Christians properly understand this. They will come and sit down before you with tears in their eyes and they will say, "Oh, I am going through such difficult trials," and they will believe it is symbolic of weakness. In reality, these trials are badges of honor from the Lord. When the God of love puts the heat on you, it is because you are made out of good stuff. He will never heat the oven beyond your capacity. That is the literal translation of I Corinthians 10:13. It is an honor to be tested.

The second point here is that neither God nor Abraham were playing games. Obeying the will of God is no joking matter. Here, it was a matter of life and death. Abraham proceeds with deliberate obedience. Can you imagine the confusion and the hurt in that boy's eyes as his dad tied him up with a rope and placed him on that altar. Our children won't always understand when we place them on the altar. When we cooperate with God in teaching them lessons that last but hurt, they won't always understand. It says that he arranged the wood, he tied Isaac up with a rope, then laid him on the wood. He then took his knife out of its cover and he raised it up into the air and started back down, aimed at Isaac's heart.

Then we read,

But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

The he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him [Put down your knife. Don't touch the boy.]; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me."

(Genesis 22:11,12 NAS)

Abraham heard and responded, "Here I am." the same thing

## But Where is the Lamb?

he said in verse 1. We often respond to God at a time of rescue, “Here I am.” But so seldom in a time of testing. But the key is found in the last half of verse 12 where God says, “Now I know.” I can’t think of anything more comforting than for God to look at me and say, “Now I know you really fear Me. Now I know I can depend on you.” To hear God say, “I’ve heard all your promises, I’ve seen all your commitments. Now in the fire of the furnace, you believed and you stood the test. Now I know.” The way God knew? He said, “You have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.” That is the test. What we withhold from God. What we cling to and say, “Don’t touch.” Where we place the No Trespassing signs for God to avoid.

In verse 13 God provided Himself the lamb. And Abraham renames the mountain, The Lord will provide. In the remainder of the passage, God pays tribute to Abraham, renews the covenant, and reminds him again in verse 16, *This is because you have not withheld your son, your only son from Me.* That is the story. Now let’s look a little more closely at the cast of character with an eye to discovering the keys to their character.

First we look at Abraham, the portrait of faith. God pays tribute to him in Hebrews 11:

By faith, Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac;  
and he who had received the promises was offering up his  
only begotten son;

it was he to whom it was said, “IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS  
SHALL BE CALLED.”

He considered that God was able to raise men even from the  
dead; (Hebrews 11:17-19 NAS)

So God confirms that what He wants us to see in Abraham is a man of faith. Can you imagine the mind of Abraham during that walk? I believe his mind focused on the images of God’s promises concerning his son. I believe he meditated on everything God had told him before. That is what the man of faith does under pressure. He meditates on God’s Word, and his faith is multiplied because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. I believe all the promises flooded his mind, “Your children shall be as the sand on the seashore. Through you and through your seed shall all the nations of the world be blessed.” I believe he quoted those verses over and over until he was so infused with confidence in the promises of God that even if God

## But Where is the Lamb?

had to resurrect Isaac from the dead, was that too hard for God? No.

Not too many men have lived with faith of Abraham. All his life he worshipped. All his life he obeyed. As the years blossomed into full bloom of age, all of his confidence was in God. But that is no exclusive club. You and I can join. It simply involves years of steady walking with God year after year after year. We want the faith of Abraham; we just don't want to pay the price of the years Abraham walked with God.

Now a closer look at Isaac. This is the first close look at Isaac. I don't know about you, but I have to be impressed. I am impressed primarily by his submissive spirit. The child who can't submit to his parents can't submit to God who ordained his parents. No where do we read that Isaac complained. I don't know about you and your children, but I think the average child would have said, "Look, Dad, I would love to make the trip, but the cartoons are on television. I tell you what, you let me know what happens." About half-way into the first trip, "Dad, Dad, I need a Coke, I am thirsty." Then they start up the mountain. Now can't you just hear most of them, "Dad, this wood is too heavy, you carry it, you are bigger than I am." When Abraham about one hundred years old began to tie him up with a rope. No doubt Isaac could have struggled loose and gone running down the mountain crying, "Dad's lost it, Dad's lost it." But he didn't do that. When Abraham laid him on top of that altar of wood, he could have kicked and squirmed and screamed for help, but apparently he didn't. We don't even know that he cried out at the knife in his father's hand came down towards his heart. The inference is that he just submitted to the will of God. He trusted to God to do whatever was best.

My friend, Isaac was more than a good illustration of a submissive child, he is the portrait of the Christian who is so yielded to the will of God that the circumstances of life no matter how devastating, no matter how threatening, are just incidence of the unfolding plan of a sovereign God who is so trustworthy that the yielded believer responds to the "All Things of Life" with *though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.* (Job 13:15a) This Christian can see the pressures as progress just as Jesus was spoken of in Hebrews 5:

Though He was a son, yet learned He obedience by the things which he suffered. (Hebrews 5:9)

## But Where is the Lamb?

That is Isaac. There is a God-implanted Isaac in each one of us that wants to relax on the altar and praise Him as the knife comes down. This person wants to sing in the dungeon of despair, that wants to trust in the lion's den of danger. He is there in each of us. He is called the Holy Spirit.

Submission is willing, joyful obedience in attitude and action. So how submissive we are to God can be seen best by how we respond in our hearts. What do you think of when that car behind you runs and smashes into your fender? What do you think of when you lose that promotion you thought you deserved? That is how submissive you are. Isaac submitted himself to God as Jesus did as we read about in I Peter 2,

...But committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:  
(I Peter 2:23c)

It is God's problem. So Isaac was a portrait of submission. Abraham was a portrait of faith.

There was one other person who played a major part. His name was Jehovah. Through this story, He was demonstrating the meaning of grace. If we go back to Hebrews 11 and finish verse 19 it says,

He considered God able to raise man even from the dead  
from which he also received him back as a type. (NAS)

In other words, Isaac was a type of Christ. Abraham was a type of the Father. Therefore, all of the story has a deeper significance of demonstrating the coming grace of God in Jesus Christ. The Father being called upon to give up His only begotten Son. The submission of the Son, "*I do always those things that please the Father*" (see John 8:29). He also he said:

O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:  
nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.  
(Matthew 26:39b)

Isaac and Christ both carried their own wood up the hill. It was a portrait of the substitutionary death of the lamb as the one slain before the foundation of the world. He was the promise of blessings to His descendants. The portrait, the promise, and the reality of the resurrection are there. Oh, the grace of God. He let another bear Isaac's death and by that death set Isaac free. This brings us to the summary of this lesson.

The summary is the answer to the question in verse 7. It is

## But Where is the Lamb?

an answer only a Christian can give. The world is lost in a maze of humanism and religions and is groping for a way to sacrifice itself upon the altar of self-sufficiency, and it finds no answer. Apart from the substitutionary atonement of another one who is worthy, there is no other answer. The unbeliever cries out amidst the altars of demonic deliverance, "Where's the Lamb?". Frustrated, empty, they are without hope. Then as with John the Baptist the Son rises from the ashes of the cross and a voice thunders, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." Suddenly there is hope. Suddenly there is salvation. It has happened to many of you. But maybe some of you still see your life characterized by hopelessness. You have never yet met the Son face to face. You have never personally received the person of Jesus Christ. Even now, your heart is crying out, "Where is the Lamb to take my place?" The song of triumph for you is recorded for you in Scripture,

Behold, the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the  
world (your sin). (John 1:29b)

You can trust Him this today. You can personally invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart. You can accept His death upon the cross as the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world to take your place. You can receive Him into your life and be born anew and become a totally new person in Jesus Christ.

Maybe you are a Christian. Maybe you have only been a Christian a short time and you were seeing and experiencing life on a new plain and a new dimension. Now you have begun to slip back into your old ways and now you are entangled in a yoke of bondage. Your heart is crying out, "Where is the Lamb?" My friend, the Lamb is seated at the right of God the Father, and He ever lives to make intercession for you. (Romans 8:34) Behold the Lamb.

If we confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us  
our sins, and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

(I John 1:9)

Immediately the Lamb takes all those sins and casts them as far as the east is from the west. (See Psalm 103:12)

Or maybe like Abraham God is testing you. Maybe you are in an area of testing in your marriage, in your job or in your finances, or in relationships, or in physical sickness. You may be in the midst of the fires of affliction and there seems to be



## But Where is the Lamb?

no thermostat. Now your heart cries out, "Where is the Lamb?" Suddenly there appears in your midst another and lo, He appears to be, He is the Son of God. He has come to give significance to your suffering and the grace to endure it and the love of a Father's love for comfort when it is over. For you, too, behold the Lamb.

Lastly, maybe you are a parent who has never placed that child or those children on the altar of God once and for all. You have never driven a stake in the ground transferring the title and letting God do with them as He pleases. You will think at times that God has forgotten them. You will know at times in the midst of their rebellion that they have forgotten God. Your heart may cry out, "But where is the Lamb?" But daybreak will come and the God who knows and loves us in our rebellion quietly waits until through tear-stained eyes, they will see His form and then, behold the Lamb.

Here is the question in closing.

### WHERE IS THE LAMB?

"Where is the lamb?" asked young Isaac that day.  
He looked, but tried as he could,  
He simply saw no substitute  
To lay upon that wood.

"God will provide Himself, the Lamb,"  
Wise Abraham answered his son.  
He knew by faith his God would provide,  
Though he didn't how t'would be done.

That's the question the world is asking.

"Where is the Lamb?" they cry.

"Who will go in my place before God  
And who for my sins will die?"

God will provide the Lamb my friend.  
The Lamb who will bear your sin.  
He stands even now at the door of your heart  
And asks you to let Him in.

Behold that Lamb for the first time.

He can be yours today.

He is waiting and wanting once and for all  
To wash all your sins away.

But Where is the Lamb?

Behold the Lamb, young Christian.  
You may have erred, its true,  
But He's seated now at the right hand of God  
To make intercession for you.

Behold the Lamb, troubled Christian.  
God has come down from His throne  
And He's in the midst of that fire with you,  
He'll never leave you alone.

Behold the Lamb, weary parent,  
Though sometimes the future looks dim,  
Lay that child now on the altar of God  
And just give him over to Him.

Like Isaac we ask, "Where is the Lamb  
Who once and for all paid the price?"  
God answers back, "Behold the Lamb,  
His name is Jesus Christ."

That is the message of Isaac and Abraham. God has provided Himself the Lamb. Maybe some of you have beheld Him for the first time or afresh and anew through this lesson. If you have, you have learned a Living Lesson from one of God's Living Legends.

## But Where is the Lamb?

### Questions for further study and application.

1- Try to redefine the issues in this story by translating it into a modern scenario. God has given you something or someone you have prayed for and suddenly it seems as though He may be taking that very thing or they very person away. How do you cope? What does Satan say to us at times like that? What does God say through His Word? Why is this story so crucial to understanding the principle of God's ownership of all things? Why does God sometimes have to take things away and then give them back before we will honor His ownership?

2- Read the account in Hebrews, chapter 11, of God's perspective of this event. What does it say about Abraham's faith? What did he believe God would do if he allowed Isaac to be slain? What application could we make in our lives?

3- Why was God's timing so crucial in this story? What would Abraham have lost had he acted sooner? Had he acted later? How do we miss His blessings by presuming on His timing? Give an example.

4- If you are a parent, have you ever given your children back to God? Have you ever signed over the title and acknowledged that they are His? If not, why not use the "title transfer" on page 9 of the lesson and build an altar and make a once-for-all commitment of your family to God.

5- What parallel can you draw between Abraham and God the Father? Between Isaac and God the Son?

6- Ask you children to study Isaac's response to this test. What key quality did he demonstrate? Are we that willing for God to take from us the things we cling to? Why not? What rights do we hold on to that keep us from setting God free to do with us whatever He chooses?

7- If God is testing you in some way right now, why not memorize Genesis 22:1 and Genesis 22:11 as the proper response to God's calling to be tested.

8- Ask God this week to make you more sensitive to the things you hold on to that were God to ask you to give them up, your faith would turn to anger or fear. List them on a piece of paper. Then, one by one, give them back to God and tear up the paper. Praise Him that you are His and all your have are His. Memorize Psalm 24:1 this week.

A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

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