

MORIAH – situated in the heart of Jerusalem, 740 meters above sea level, today there stands the Dome of the Rock, prior to that this had been the site of the Herod's temple, further back than that was Solomon's temple, and further back than that, the place where Abraham offered Isaac to God. This has always been the place where God's people have drawn near to the very presence of God. Abraham was changed when he worshiped the living God!

Key thought: When you draw near to God in genuine worship, you will never be the same!

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. *Romans 12:1*

THE PRINCIPLES WE LEARN

- A. God will test the sincerity of your faith.

- B. God will not tolerate any rivals to His preeminence in your life. *Matthew 16:25; Hebrews 11:17-19*
 - 1. Pride
 - 2. Personal agenda
 - 3. Possessions

This event is a vivid picture of the surrendered life. Abraham had replaced his primary love for God, with love for his son. Isaac was the gift from God. He was the promise of God come to life. He was the gift that God intended to be a blessing to Abraham and to the rest of the world, but God never intended for Isaac to become priority in Abraham's heart.

THE PRINCIPLES WE LIVE BY

- A. I will draw near to God by responding in faith to the tests of life.

Key verse:

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.
Genesis 22:18

- B. I will draw near to God by removing anything that competes with God for preeminence in my heart.

We must kill anything that is in competition for our devotion to God. The meaning is clear, drastic measures are necessary when there are rivals for our love for God.

"Father, I want to know You, but my cowardly heart fears to give up its toys. I cannot part with them without inward bleeding and I do not try to hide from You the terror of the parting. I come trembling, but I do come. Please root from my heart all those things which I have cherished so long and which have become a very part of my living self, so that You may enter and dwell there without a rival. Then shall You make the place of Your feet glorious. Then shall my heart have no need of the sun to shine in it, for You will be the light of it, and there shall be no night there. In Jesus' name, Amen!" *A.W. Tozer*