



Sermon  
Rev. Dr. Lang Yang

**"God Will Provide"**

First Sunday in Lent  
St. Michael's Lutheran Church  
2-21-2021

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Genesis 22:8**, "Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together." (NIV). This is the Word of God. (Cross-reference – Genesis 22:7, 9, 14)

Illustration "Obedience" (Show obedience to God)

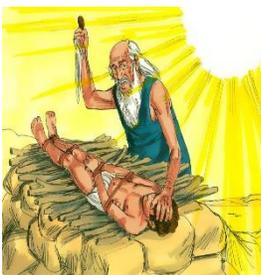


Many times we say to our spouse or our children to do something for us. You would think that the tasks have been completed. You realize that the tasks have not been done. When you ask why the things you had asked of them weren't done, they usually reply, "I forgot, or I don't have time." When you give this kind of answer, it usually shows that you have not been obedient to what you were asked to do. What if God asks you to do something for Him? What would your response be? Would you try to get away from God or be obedient like Abraham, who is obedient to what God asks of him?

I. If we carefully look at Abraham's life of obedience to God, you and I will have a hard time understanding. (Show Isaac birth to Abraham and Sarah)



When we read Abraham's life, he and Sarrah were old before his wife Sarrah conceive a son Isaac who will be an heir to all that he has and will carry on his descendant line. God also promises Abraham that his descendant will be fruitful throughout the earth. (Show Abraham ready to sacrifice Isaac)



When Isaac is born, Abraham loves him. "Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." (Genesis 22:2). If God said this to you, would you be able to carry out what He asks? You may respond by saying, "God, I cannot do what you have commanded. Your Fifth Commandment said, "You shall not murder." (Luther Small Catechism, p. 77). God, aren't you a loving, merciful God, and you want no harm to others?" (Show Abraham and Isaac loading the donkey)



We are human and will continue to question God and will not be able to carry out what God asks of us. How did Abraham being obedient to God's command? "Early the next morning, Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about." (Genesis 8:3). God instructed, and Abraham listens and obey. (Show refuse to listen)



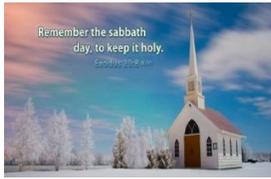
Christians today are unwilling to listen to God instead of covering their ear and not willing to listen to what God has to say. God haven't ask you to do what He asks Abraham. All God asks is for us to believe in His Son Jesus Christ as Lord and

Savior. Jesus said, "Whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16). Even Christians rather listen to a fortune teller, horoscope, still worshipping an idol, or anything that promises them health and wealth. When God's said, "Go and make disciples of all nation," (Matthew 28:19), Christian said, "Let someone else go, I don't have time." (Show Genesis 22:5)

II. When Abraham took Isaac and the servant close enough to the location, "He said to his servants, "Stay here



with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." (Genesis 22:5). Abraham spoke the word to show his faith. Even though he doesn't understand what God asked of him, he trusts that God will provide only good and nothing wrong will happen. When we face doubt or unsure of the thing in life, we don't put our faith and trust in God. Instead of coming to worship and remember the Sabbath day and hear his word, we rather do the pleasing to us instead of pleasing to God. (Show Exodus 20:8)



The Third Command writes, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Dr. Martin Luther writes that "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it." (Luther Small Catechism, p. 68). If you didn't listen and stand firm to the faith, others will influence you and even lead you astray from the faith.

Abraham believes and trusted in God even though he wasn't too sure about God's asking him to sacrifice his one and only son. Let us watch a short video about the sacrifice of Isaac. (Show video clip of sacrifice of Isaac – The video is trim to shorten - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-3H7JBBGFU&t=166s>)

2-21-2021 Abraham and Isaac chapters 11-12 HD Restored - trimmed - Youtube 2.53 Min

(Show Abraham ready to sacrifice Isaac)



The author of Hebrews writes, "By faith Abraham, God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death." (Hebrews 22:17-19). Because of Abraham's faith, he wasn't worried too much about his son Isaac. It is why he told the servant, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." (Genesis 22:5).

III. Most people ask, "Why did God tempted people?" When we face hardship, illness, or any other troubled heart, we ask, " Why am I sick? Why am I so poor? Why do I live in darkness? Why is the world full of hatred without love? Why is there hunger, famine, earthquake, fire, storm, crimes, and everything else around us that have no peace? God, where are you?" We complain and forgotten that God will provide. He knows what is good for us. (Show Thank You Lord)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, God, had always loved us. The Apostle Paul writes, "For if we live, we live



to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8). "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28). Our lives are to give thanks to the Lord always, whether in good time or bad times. (Show Abraham prepared to sacrifice Isaac)



Abraham was tested to sacrifice his only son Isaac to God. Without knowing what will happen, his faith is that God will provide what is good for him. Keeping the faith, Abraham will carry through the sacrifice without hesitation because of his faith in God. If you read Genesis, you will see Jesus in the Old Testament. Let me make a short comparison for you. **(Show Isaac and Jesus)** It is called "typology," It described "one holding that things in Christian belief are prefigured or symbolized by things in the Old Testament." (<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/typology>) **(Show Prophetic parallels between Isaac and Jesus)**



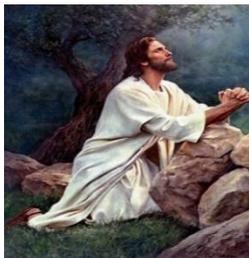
**Prophetic Parallels between Isaac and Jesus**

Isaac	Jesus
1. Child of promise (Gen. 12:3).	1. Child of promise (Gen 3:15).
2. Supernatural birth, Sarah was passed the age of child bearing being about 90 years old (Gen. 17:17, Heb. 11:11).	2. Supernatural birth, born of the virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18).
3. Father's only son (Gen. 22:2).	3. Father's only son (Matt. 3:16).
4. Loved by his father (Gen. 22:2).	4. Loved by His Father (Matt. 3:16).
5. Isaac asked where the lamb for the sacrifice was (Gen. 22:7).	5. Jesus asked the Father if there was another way, but said "Thy will be done" (Matt. 26:39).
6. Brought to the land of Moriah to be sacrificed on a mountain (Gen. 22:2).	6. Brought to the land of Moriah to be crucified on a mountain (Matt. 27:33).
7. Accompanied by 2 men (Gen. 22:3).	7. Accompanied by 2 thieves (Matt. 27:38).
8. Carried wood for the altar of his own sacrifice (Gen. 22:6).	8. Carried the wooden altar, the cross that he was sacrificed on (John 19:17).
9. Submitted to the will of his father (Gen. 22:9).	9. Submitted to the will of His Father (Luke 22:42).
10. Isaac brought back to life symbolically on the third day (Gen. 22:4-12).	10. Jesus brought back to life literally on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4).

**(Show Lent)**



During Lent, you notice that the altar and the pastor stole are color in purple. Purple shades are used for two reasons: first, because it is associated with sorrow, repentance, mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion; secondly, because purple is the color associated with royalty and celebrates Christ's resurrection and sovereignty. **(Show Jesus Praying)**



God will provide because Jesus obedient to the Father will, he pray, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." (Matthew 26:42, Mark 14:36, Luke 22:17). Instead of doing according to His will, Jesus willingly goes to the cross to suffer for you, me, and the whole world so that we may have life in him. God knows what is good for the sinful human because God will provide His one and only Son for the atonement for the world's sin. God has provided for your salvation through Christ. The only way for you to receive salvation is to believe and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. **(Show Mark 1:15)**

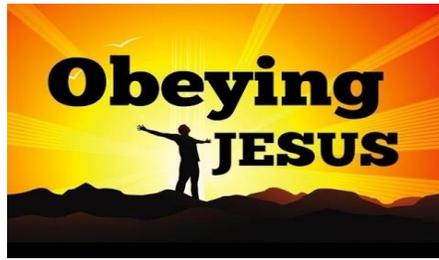


Our Gospel reading said, "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15) God has provided Jesus as the Savior of the world for all nations. Repent and believe in Jesus Christ, and you shall have life. Amen.

Now may the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.

# Children Message

## Listen and Obeying Jesus



**Theme:** Listen and Obeying Jesus

**Object:** Sign #1 obey, and #2 don't obey, and Bible.

**Scripture:** "And in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (Genesis 22:18, ESV).

Good morning, children. How many of you know the word "listen and obey" mean? (*Let the children answer*). Listen to means we need to hear what it is saying to us, and obeying means doing what it says. I'm going to ask you to say "ONE" for obeying or "TWO" for not obeying. Ready:

Who should you listen to about bedtime?

1-Parents      2-Neighbor

Who should you listen to about turning in homework?

1-Teacher      2-Friend

Who should you listen to about fire safety?

1-Fireman      2-Veterinarian

Who should you listen to about crossing the street? street?      1-Crossing Guard      2-Librarian

Who should you listen to about staying healthy?

1-Doctor      2-Grocery store cashier

Who should you listen to about obeying the law?

1-Police officer      2-Soccer coach

Who should you listen to the teaching of the Bible?

1-Pastor      2-News

In our lesson, Abraham obeys God, because of his faith and trusting God that God will provide all good for him. There are many things in this world that we will need to listen to and obey. But the most important person that we all should obey is Jesus Christ. Let us play one more round. Who should you listen to about being saved and going to heaven? 1-Jesus or 2-Satan. Great job! We need to listen and obeying Jesus as the Bible (*Hold up the Bible*) teaches us that Jesus is the Savior of the world. You can read the Bible by yourself, with your family, or at church. By listening to His Word and obeying is believing and trusting Jesus, you will have eternal life.

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, we will listen and obey you, and we will learn, live, and share Christ with the world. In Jesus' names. Amen.

Adapted from: <https://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-teaches-we-listen-lectionary-lesson-from-mark-121-28/>