

VISION FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
GENESIS 22-23

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Verses 22: 1-19, "Lord not this please, not this..."

God will never ask us to do anything that we do not have the capacity to do

Tests are for our own self understanding, self disclosure and revelation, not God's

We cannot always blame God or the inefficacy of prayer for certain outcomes

Some things are only revealed in the fullness of time and some things are never understood

Faith means living with what we do not understand

The burden of silence and loneliness when we must make difficult decisions

God will never ask us to do anything against God's character

Abraham's strange statement and powerful insight (vss. 4-5)

Isaac's Trust

Abraham's test and God's Supreme Sacrifice

The Aftermath of Obedience---Relationship between Abraham and Isaac

Genesis 24

Genesis 25: 7-11

Verses 23: 1-20, When Death Claims a Loved One

Appropriate Affection

Affection not guilt

Affection not feigned strength (Psalm 55:22)

Affection without being concerned about appearances

Affection reflects individual's personality

Affection is genuine mourning

Arrangements and Affection

Business of burial

Arrangements should reflect deceased not issues of others

Remarks and songs are tributes to living not platform for others (their relationship, etc.)

Affordability

Arrangements should be affordable; not incur debt

We demonstrate love when people are living not by lavishness of funeral

Afterwards

Life goes on with necessary adjustments

We should not live the rest of our lives in the shadow of the deceased

Anniversaries of deaths are not times to redig the wells of mourning

We don't need to keep saying goodbye

It's all right to be happy and experience love after loss

Affirmation

Death of those we love is a test of what we believe about eternity and rewards