

“I’m Too Young”

An Affected Attitude

Stories like the following are happening far too often in the homes of teenagers. One mother said this, “The other night I walked into the kitchen, where my 13-year-old daughter was hunched over her geometry book. “Doing homework, sweetie?” I asked, innocently enough. Mathilda looked up, rolled her eyes, and in a voice dripping with sarcasm said, “No, Mom, I just love reading about tessellations in my spare time — what do you think?!” A long discussion followed — or, rather, a pointed lecture about respect, and a halfhearted apology. Case closed. Sort of.”

Does this sound familiar? Does the above example sound like you?

Tonight we are going to be continuing our series “ I’m too young! What does God say about youth?” by looking at an example of a young man whose obvious faith was evident by his attitude toward his father and his God. Turn to Genesis 22...

Faith will affect your attitude. Trust in God’s promises will affect your attitude. It’s not all about what you can see and feel and taste. Life is about much more than that. Let’s read from Gen. 22:5b

I. **Isaac had an uncomplaining work-ethic.** (Gen. 22:5b-6)

Earlier in the story we see that Abraham got Isaac up early in the morning and had him and two servants help him chop wood for the sacrifice. How bout that for a good morning!

A. Isaac worked when it was inconvenient.

If my dad woke me up early in the morning to go outside and chop wood, let’s just say, I probably would not be walking in the Spirit. Now we see that Isaac was loaded up with the wood for the sacrifice.

B. Isaac worked when it was difficult.

Abraham laid the wood on his son, to climb a mountain. Yeah, that sounds fun... Yet the Bible does not record any complaints coming from Isaac the “lad” or young man. Scripture says that “they went both of them together.” It does not show any evidence of rebellion. It actually says the opposite. They were both obeying God together. His faith also was evident here. His faith cause him to willingly obey his father even when it was difficult. He had an uncomplaining work ethic.

When your parents or an authority give you a task, can it be said of you that you accomplish it with an uncomplaining work ethic? This is God’s expectation of us. When you have to stop playing your video game, how do you respond? This young man, Isaac, displayed his faith in his uncomplaining work ethic. Do you?

II. **Isaac had personalized faith.** (Gen. 22:7-8)

The main them of this passage is the testing of Abraham and his faith, but we can see the testing and results of Isaac’s faith as well.

A. Isaac questioned their provisions.

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“God will provide.” That is one of the deepest phrases of faith in the OT. In Hebrews it is made clear that Abraham was sustained by the belief that God could raise Isaac from the dead. What faith! Here is a phrase that highlights Isaac’s response. “So they went both of them together.” Abraham was not forcing Isaac to continue. Isaac adopted the faith that his father had by continuing on.

B. Isaac trusted God’s provision.

Have you personalized your faith? Often we can question the provisions that God has given to us. We focus on what we can see. Lord, I see that you are asking me to obey you, but you have not given me what I need to accomplish it. Isaac noticed the visible things as well. “We have the fire and the wood, but where is the sacrifice?” Abraham simply responded, “God will provide,” and “they went both of them together.” Isaac believed that God would provide what he could not see.

III. Isaac had a sacrificial attitude. (Gen. 22:9-14)

Here again is the proving of Isaac’s faith. Abraham told him earlier that God would provide a lamb. Was he the Lamb?! I would have been freaking out at this point. Dad?! What are you doing?! What if God did choose him as the victim?

A. Isaac did not complain.

Isaac was not just showing a faith in and obedience to his father Abraham,

B. Isaac completely trusted God.

Isaac was willing to lay his physical body down as a sacrifice to the Lord. Romans 12:1-2 says, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Is your life completely surrendered to the Lord?”

Faith will affect your attitude.

Your attitude is on display. Whether it is a good one or a bad one. Do not repeat the story that is so common in the homes of teenagers. Eye rolling, heavy sighs and even back talk are all hallmarks of a bad attitude in teenagers. Don’t let it be a hallmark in your life. Follow the example of Isaac, the young man. He had an uncomplaining work-ethic. He had a personalized faith. He had a sacrificial attitude.