



**May 15-21, 2016**

**Texts: *Gen. 13:2, 8-9; 14:18-20; 22:1-3***

**SPRING 2016 SERIES:**

**The Christian and Spiritual Gifts**

**SUMMARY OF SERMON:** Abram (Abraham) was a giver. He trusted that the Lord would provide for him. There are many examples of Abraham's generosity but his giving, trusting heart reaches its pinnacle in chapter 22. There, in obedience to the Lord's command, he is ready to give up his son, Isaac. But God stops him. This test confirmed Abraham's faith in God and provided a foreshadowing of the gift of God's Son, Jesus, on the cross.

**RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK** [The Bible readings this week highlight some givers and giver characteristics.]

*Monday, May 16* – **John 3:16-21** [No human act of giving can ever begin to compare with the giving of the Son to the world by the Father. This act of divine giving, anchored in love, provides the only means of deliverance from our death sentence of sin into the glorious eternal life of the Son.]

*Tuesday, May 17* – **John 10:11-21** [When Jesus talks about laying down his life for the sheep he is referring to the cross and his atoning sacrifice for our sins. Note, v.18, that he does this of his own volition – he is none other than the perfect Giver.]

*Wednesday, May 18* – **Genesis 22:1-19** [While just touching on this story on Sunday it is worth reading in its entirety as this is one of the most profound foreshadowings of the cross of Christ. Note, v.14, the name Abraham gave the place, typical of givers who trust that God will provide all we need.]

*Thursday, May 19* – **John 12:1-8** [Mary displays the heart of a giver in her selfless act of devotion to Christ. She gives freely of her resources knowing that God will supply her needs. It is not a "waste" as Judas complains. It is an act of love for the Lord. That is how Christian givers view their giving.]

*Friday, May 20* – **II Corinthians 9:6-15** [While this passage is written for all followers of Christ it finds great resonance with those who have the motivational gift of giving, featuring many of the characteristics of givers.]

*Saturday, May 21* – **Proverbs 3:9-10; 11:24-25; 13:11; 14:31; 19:17** [Scattered like gems throughout the book of Proverbs are reminders of the importance of grateful, giving hearts.]



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