

12 Tests of Abraham & the Sermon on the Mount 12-21-14 AM & PM

Introduction:

We are all tested. It is necessary to grow our faith. Not all tests are easily understood to be tests though.

James 1:2-4 *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

If we look at twelve events in the life of Abraham, we might understand something about our father of Faith. In fact, if we look at the sermon on the mount alone, we see the tests of Abraham

12 Events in the life of Abraham

1. Genesis 12:1-7

Test: Abraham left Ur and Haran for an unknown destination at God's direction.

Application: Do I trust God with my future? Is his will part of my decision making'

Mt 6:33 *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. 34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

2. Genesis 13:8-13

Test: Abraham directed a peaceful separation from Lot and settled at the oaks of Mamre.

Application: Do I trust God with my interests even when I seem to be receiving an unfair settlement'

Mt 5:40 *"If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. 41 "And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. 42 "Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.*

3. Genesis 14:13-18

Test: Abraham rescued Lot from the five kings.

Application: Does my faithfulness to others bear witness to my trust in God's faithfulness'

Mt 5:14 *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 "Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

4. Genesis 14:17-24

Test: Abraham gave a tithe of loot to the godly king of Salem, Melchizedek, and refused the gift of the king of Sodom.

Application: Am I watchful in my dealings with people that I give proper honor to God and refuse to receive honor that belongs to him'

Mt 6:19 *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;*

5. Genesis 15:1-6

Test: Abraham trusted God's promise that he would have a son.

Application: How often do I consciously reaffirm my trust in God's promises'

Mt 6:25 *"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"*

6. Genesis 15:7-11

Test: Abraham received the promised land by faith, though the fulfillment would not come for many generations.

Application: How have I demonstrated my continued trust in God during those times when I have been required to wait'

Mt 6:20 *"but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal."*

7. Genesis 17:9-27

Test: At God's command, Abraham circumcised every male in his family.

Application: In what occasions in my life have I acted simply in obedience to God, and not because I understood the significance of what I was doing'

Mt 7:24 *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."*

8. Genesis 18:1-8

Test: Abraham welcomed strangers, who turned out to be angels.

Application: When was the last time I practiced hospitality'

Mt 5:46 *"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?"*

9. Genesis 18:22-33

Test: Abraham prayed for Sodom.

Application: Am I eager to see people punished, or do I care for people in spite of their sinfulness'

Mt 5:43 *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' 44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."*

10. Genesis 20:1-17

Test: Abraham admitted to wrongdoing and took the actions needed to set things right.

Application: When I sin, is my tendency to cover up, or confess? Do I practice the truth that an apology must sometimes be accompanied by restitution'

Mt 6:14 *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

11. Genesis 21:22-34

Test: Abraham negotiated a treaty with Abimelech concerning a well.

Application: Can people depend on my words and promises'

Mt 5:34 *"But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; 35 "nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 "Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 "But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."*

12. Genesis 22:1-12

Test: Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac.

Application: Am I willing to trust God completely, and be obedient completely, even when I cannot see the purpose

Mt 5:10 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

Conclusion:

Have a faith such as Abraham's is one worthy of great fame:

James 2:23 *And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.*