

February 18, 2024
Genesis Behind The Curtain: Abraham – Part 3
Episode 4: Here I Am
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 22:1-8

Vs. 1 Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. 2 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.” 3 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. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 5 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.” 6 Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

1. Forging a “Here I am” Faith

"Here I am." This response signifies readiness, obedience, and attentiveness to God's call.

- 1. Creating a “Here I am” Spirituality Vs 1** Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “**Abraham!**” “Here I am,” he replied.
- a. This is the first time in the entire story of Abraham where he is specifically and directly addressed as “Abraham”
 - i. **Other instances of God speaking to Abraham:**
 - 1. **Call to leave Haran:** (Genesis 12:1-3) **Covenant of the Land:** (Genesis 15) **Name change and Covenant of Circumcision** Genesis 17:5 **Announcement of Isaac's birth:** In Genesis 17:1
 - 2. **Abram had become Abraham—** Abram: The name "Abram" essentially means "exalted father" or "high father" in Hebrew. In Genesis 17, God changes Abram's name to "Abraham," which means "father of many" or "father of a multitude" The transition from Abram to Abraham is significant in the biblical text, symbolizing a deepening of the covenant relationship with God and indicating a transformation in Abraham's role and identity.

ii. **“Here I AM” faith fast-tracks us to God’s best.**

1. **Jacob** - In Genesis 31:11 and Genesis 46:2, Jacob responds to God with "Here I am"
2. **Moses** - In Exodus 3:4, when the Lord calls out to him from within the burning bush, Moses responds with "Here I am."
3. **Samuel** - In 1 Samuel 3:4-10, as a young boy serving in the temple, Samuel hears the Lord calling him by name and responds with "Here I am."
4. **Isaiah** - In Isaiah 6:8, during his vision of the Lord seated on a high and exalted throne, Isaiah hears the Lord asking whom He should send as a messenger. Isaiah responds with "Here I am. Send me!"

Here I am, a baseball superstar, falling into the pits, having everybody write you off, and then having God say, 'I'm going to use your mess for a message.' How beautiful is that?

Darryl Strawberry

Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. **Reflecting on Readiness:** Abraham’s “Here I am” response to God implied openness and willingness. On a scale of 1-10, where are you on the “Here I am” scale of openness to God.
2. **Testing Faith:** Abraham's test was profound and unique. What does this story teach us about the nature of faith and tests from God? Have you experienced moments in your life that you felt were tests of your faith? How did you respond?
3. **"Here I Am" Spirituality:** The sermon talks about a "Here I Am" spirituality that signifies readiness, obedience, and attentiveness to God. How can we cultivate this kind of spirituality in our daily lives? Share practical steps or experiences.
4. **The Significance of Names:** Discuss the transformation from Abram to Abraham and its significance in the context of faith and identity. How do you see your own identity in relation to your faith journey? Does your faith identity transform over time, and how?
5. **Echoes of Obedience in Scripture:** Other biblical figures like Jacob, Moses, Samuel, and Isaiah also responded with "Here I am" to God's call. How do their stories of obedience inspire your own faith journey? Can you draw parallels between their experiences and the ways God calls or has called you in your life?