



Session 3 Homework: Intercepting Supply

[God] said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him" (Genesis 22:2-3 ESV).

We don't see much of what passes during the night after Abraham hears from God before he rises early the next morning to set on his way. One can only surmise the agonized questions that may have passed through Abraham's head: ***Do I obey God? How can I give up my son when I have only just received him? Could I flee with Isaac to keep him safe? Where could I go that is hidden from God's sight? Do I dare disobey God? Why would God call me to do such a thing? How can I sacrifice my own son?***

Yet, Abraham goes and he takes Isaac with him. In fact he rises early in the morning to obey. God allows him to continue on, up to the point where God knows that Abraham is not turning back, where He knows that there is nothing that Abraham would withhold from Him.

It is at this point, A.W. Tozer writes in *The Pursuit of God*,¹ that Abraham truly possesses the kingdom of heaven, for he has "repudiated every external thing and ha[s] rooted from [his] heart[] all sense of possessing" (Tozer, 1982, p. 23). There was nothing that he possessed as his own that he would have called "my" or "mine;" what remained was complete obedience and complete surrender to God.

When Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:3, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (ESV), he is not telling us that we are to be impoverished in the worldly sense, but in the sense of holding nothing as our own that we would not readily give over to God (Tozer, 1982, p.23).

Most of us will not be called to sacrifice our only children, but we are called to examine our hearts and to ask what we hold dear that we are not willing to give fully over to God. Is it your time? Your finances? Your company or livelihood? Your family? Your possessions?

Up to this point we have spoken theoretically about jumping into the fight to overcome human trafficking. We have asked you to consider what holds you back, whether or not you have time to give, what makes you hesitant to jump in. We have asked that you begin to understand what the problem of sex trafficking is around the world and in your own communities and that you open your eyes to the individuals enslaved by the sex trade. We have talked about how the Church is the answer to the problem and what it means to be an ambassador for Christ, and we have said that in order for the problem of trafficking to be stopped, you must be willing to listen, to obey, and to sacrifice.

Until now, however, it has all been theoretical. We have been dealing with the heart but have not called you tangibly to act.

¹ Tozer, A.W. (1982). *The pursuit of God*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, Inc

Today, that changes.

Today, we want you to ask yourself, "What is God calling me to give and how am I going to respond? Is God calling me to be a family for a young woman who needs a loving home? Is God asking me to sacrifice my comfort to make a significant impact in a young child's life, an impact that could protect her from falling into the evils of sex trafficking?"

If you are saying to yourself that this is an immense sacrifice, God's response is that yes, it is. But just as He asked of Abraham, God is asking you what you are willing to give. Are you holding onto the things that you call "mine," or are you the poor in Spirit, who lay claim to nothing, and thereby gain everything? Fighting sex trafficking and picking up your cross and following Jesus require deep sacrifice from not just one individual but all of us, sacrifice that will last longer than a training session, cut deeper than weeping large tears, and may drastically cause your life to change.

This week, prayerfully consider the questions we have already asked above.

- What is God calling me to give and how am I going to respond?
- Is God calling me to be a family for a young woman who needs a loving home?
- Is God asking me to sacrifice my comfort to make a significant impact in a young child's life, an impact that could protect her from falling into the evils of sex trafficking?
- What am I holding onto that keeps me from truly being "poor in Spirit," that I am not willing to give over fully to God?