



FOLLOW THE DONKEY

Becoming a better follower

DONKEYS IN THE BIBLE



They are mentioned around 140 time in the Bible

They were considered work animals

They were used to carry heavy loads



Often used to plow but you were not permitted to do a mixed plow
(*Deuteronomy 22:10*)



They were also used for riding



DONKEYS IN THE BIBLE

And in desperate times, for food

There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey's head sold for eighty shekels of silver, and a quarter of a cab of seed pods for five shekels.

2 Kings 6:25

You find them present in many of our important Bible moments

We want to find out if these animals could talk what would we learn from their story when it comes to following God.



DONKEY OF SACRIFICE



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. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. 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."

Genesis 22:3-5



DONKEY OF SACRIFICE



This is the story where Abraham is told by God to offer up his son of promise, Issac, to God

We join the story as they are headed to the location God gave him

Our donkey is given the job of carrying the wood to the base of the mountain

The Journey Took Three Days (*Mark 8:31*)

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.



DONKEY OF SACRIFICE



That had to be one tense journey

Every step of the way was a huge test of faith for Abraham

When they arrived at the base of the mountain the wood went from the donkey on to Issac (v. 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



AN EASTER MOMENT

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.



John 19:17-18



ABRAHAM SAYS



“Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

Genesis 22:5

While he had not clued in anybody else including Isaac, Abraham knew what he was about to do

Sacrifices do not usually come back or do they (Luke 24:5-6)



ABRAHAM'S FAITH

**Could it be that Abraham
thought he was going to
have to do it and was
trusting God
for a miracle?**



ABRAHAM SAYS



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?" Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together.

Genesis 22:7-8



THE MISSING SACRIFICE



As Abraham and Isaac are head out Isaac starts to do a little inventory

They had fire and wood

Rocks were plentiful they could build an altar when they got the who wants to carry rocks

But they seem to be missing the most important part the animal to sacrifice

GOD WILL PROVIDE!

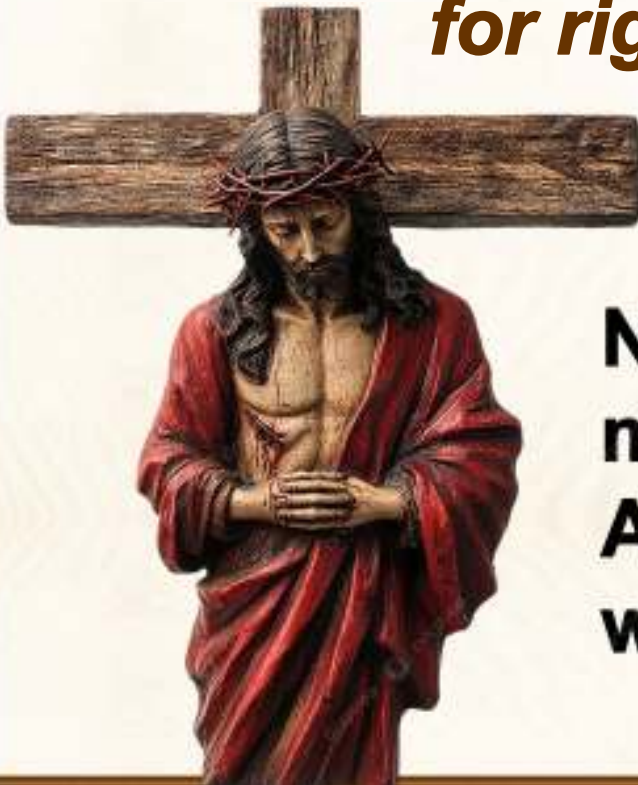


SUBSTITUTE NEEDED

“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.”

1 Peter 2:24

No matter if he was hoping for a miracle or just a substitute, Abraham was moving forward with God's plan



GOD'S PROMISE

Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

God promised Abraham Isaac was the one through whom the covenant would be filled

Genesis 17:19

For that to happen, Isaac would need to produce some offspring

Dead people do not do that!



MOMENT OF TRUTH

(Genesis 22:9-14)

Crisis averted, God went the substitute route

Abraham go all the way up to the point of raising the knife

He had to bind Isaac and put him on that altar

He had to see the horror in his eyes

But that was the point, when you are following there is no holding back

(Genesis 22:12)



MOMENT OF TRUTH

And while God did not require Abraham to sacrifice his son, the same can not be said for God...



This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

1 John 4:10



THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

**You ever ponder what the conversation
home was like?**

Do you think they walked in silence for a while?

**I would not want to be the one sharing it
with Sarah**

**Following sometimes may ask us to go in
directions was just cannot imagine**



SACRIFICIAL FOLLOWING



**Following may require us
to make sacrifices**

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son

Hebrews 11:17

**These are tests demonstrate
our faith in God**

**These are tests that
force us to grow**

EMBRACING PROMISES



GOD'S PROMISE

If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:29

It is a promise of life eternal (*1 John 2:25*)

It is a promise of relationship (*Ephesians 1:13*)

It is in promise of never having to walk alone (*Hebrews 13:5*)

In our following we must remember when God calls us to follow, he will provide



A donkey stands in a desert landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the ground is rocky and sparsely vegetated. The donkey is dark-colored and is looking towards the left of the frame.

Follow the **DONKEY**

Will You Trust God?