

## Chapter 16      **NO TURNING BACK**

Genesis 22: 1 - 19

***"And the two of them went on together" (vs. 8)***

.....

The full picture of this wonderful story of Abraham and Isaac is described in Gen, 22: 1 - 9. These verses speak of the calling of Abraham by God to sacrifice Isaac, his only son, with precise instructions where he was to do this.

Abraham did not hesitate, for we read

*"So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him." (22:3)*

It was a three-day journey, yet Abraham journeyed steadily on with no hesitation. God had spoken and he would obey.

Can we visualize father and son, Abraham and Isaac, walking together to the place to which they were to go; the place of sacrifice. *"My father.... where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"* Isaac queried, to which his father replied, *"My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering"*. And then we read, *"...and the two of them went on together" (22:7,8)*

On reaching 'the place' there is no indication that Isaac remonstrated or struggled as Abraham *"bound his son and laid him on the alter upon wood"*(v.9) although, being in early manhood, he could well have been physically stronger than his aged father.

Could it be that, on the way, Isaac had realized that he himself was to be the offering and that right here was the place of Gethsemane, as it were, for him, and that, in that moment, he made the choice of total submission to his father, laying

aside self-interest, self preservation, all 'rights, surrendering himself completely to his father's will.

As we think on these words, "*and the two of them went on together*", perhaps we can think of them in regard to our own walk with God, our Father, and the choice of personal surrender and obedience to His will, no matter what His will for us might involve. The picture we see of Abraham and Isaac, father and son, is of them walking on together in unity of heart, mind will in the direction of the father's (and the Father's) leading.

In Gethsemane, the challenge of obeying the Father's will was met, embraced and steadfastly adhered to by the Lord Jesus, and , as Hebrews 12:2 tells us, He "*who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross...*" The Lord Jesus did not turn back from "the place". Abraham didn't turn back from 'the place' and, likewise, in 2 Timothy 4:7 the words of the Apostle Paul are, "*I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*".

May we too walk on in the certain assurance that the Father's will is always right for us, no matter if we may, at the time, be without understanding.

"*Follow Me*" are the words of the Lord Jesus. (John 12:26)

*".... whosoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that are in Him, He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked". (1John 2: 5-6)*

*"Blessed is the man whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage." (Psalm 84: 5)*