INTRODUCTION

- Why would God test his good disciples?
  - A. To punish them?
  - B. To prepare them for something bigger?
  - C. Just because God can do anything He wants?
  - D. To make good disciples great and great disciples greater?

### Comparison of the Sacrifices of Isaac and Jesus Christ

1. Both Isaac and Jesus Christ were miraculously born. [Recall that Abraham was over 100 years old and Sarah his wife in her 90's!]
2. Both Isaac and Christ brought joy to their Father
3. Both Isaac and Christ were born at a set time
4. Both Isaac and Christ were persecuted by their brothers
5. Two young men went with Isaac; Christ hung between two men
6. Isaac carried the wood, Christ carried the cross
7. Isaac questioned his father [“where is the sacrificial ram?”] and Christ asked, “Is there another way?”
8. Christ was obedient unto death; Isaac was also willing to die since he could’ve easily outran or overpowered his 113-year-old Dad
9. Both sons were “resurrected” or “given back” to their fathers
10. The sacrifices were offered on Mt Moriah (OT) – Mt Calvary (NT)
11. Isaac’s ram was caught in the thorns, and Jesus had a crown of thorns on his head
12. The ram was Isaac’s substitute; Jesus was our substitute
13. The Cross was hard, but not impossible for God to put His Son through; For Abraham, Isaac’s sacrifice was not as difficult to go through either since Isaac was probably a teenager at that time (a little humor thrown in)

### CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Testing of God’s children is a foregone conclusion – Bank on it happening to each and every one of us if we truly belong to God
- We cannot grow or mature without tough times… and sometimes the bigger the challenges you have in life means God wants to use you in big ways (consider the lives of Abraham, Job, Joseph, Apostle Paul)

### NEXT WEEK: Genesis 24. OT Dating Practice #4 – Let your dad find a wife for you. Abraham sends his servant with 10 camels to search out a wife for Isaac. 10 Camels can carry 4500 lbs of stuff. Was this wife-searching serious business, or what?

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