

# *The Duties of The Priest*

## *Part 16*

*“<sup>1</sup> Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>2</sup> Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.” <sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and saddled 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. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. <sup>5</sup> 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.” <sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> 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?” <sup>8</sup> Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. <sup>9</sup> When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>12</sup> “Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” <sup>13</sup> Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place *The LORD Will Provide*. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” <sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” (Genesis 22:1-18)*

Abraham when he was called by God he had some shortcoming but finally his faith was perfected by the Lord and Abraham imparted that faith to his son Isaac. From the above chosen Scripture we can observe certain things from the life of Abraham and Isaac of how they walk with God and how they acted to obey and please God. These things we need to adopt and apply in the life of our families and children.

**1- Immediate obedience:** When he was called by God, Abraham at once reply to God, *“Here I am,”* and early next morning he did what God asked him to do. We need to obey God immediately and teach our children immediate obedience to God and to us as parents. When we instruct them to do certain things they should be diligent to do it at once and on time. Delay obedience is disobedience.

**2- Full obedience:** Abraham obeyed God fully and he was willing to offer Isaac to God. He did not bargain with God or tried to do something else to escape doing what God requested of him. We need to obey God fully and we need to teach our children full obedience to our instructions. Sometime when we instruct our children to do certain things they will bargain with us or they will try to change our instructions or replace them by other orders. This is disobedient and we need to be aware of that and not allow our children to practice that with us.

**3- Diligence and hard work with perseverance:** Abraham got up early and Isaac got up early with him to do what God wanted them to do; to travel three days and to climb a mountain. Abraham placed the wood on Isaac and both climb the mountain. We need to teach our children diligence and to persevere in doing the work. God said in *Genesis 3:19* the following *“By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”* Therefore our children should get involve early in taking and carrying the responsibilities in the house and later on in life outside the atmosphere of home. Children should help the parents to arranging their beds, washing dishes, sweeping the ground, watering the garden, throwing the garbage, carrying the groceries inside the house, etc. They need to wake up early and do their assignments in washing their faces, brushing their teeth, taking bath, reading the bible, taking part in family worship, attending their lessons and studies and helping us in house responsibilities.

**4- Sharing with them our trials that we pass through and help them to fix their minds on the things of God:** There was a healthy discussion between Abraham and Isaac as they were climbing the mountain. Isaac was asking *where is the lamb for the burnt offering?* He was fully oriented and his mind was fixed on the things of God. Such kind of thoughts and discussion should go on in the life of our families and children. We need to share with our children what trials we pass through, and explain to them the things that God ordained for us to do so that God would fulfill his promise and provide to us our needs. Our children thoughts should not be directed and get involved in politics, sports news, TV movies and dramas, that will build up a depraved generation that have a disabled faith unto God. As early as possible we need to share to them our faith and our trials and ask them to pray to God to solve our problems. As well as we need to teach them that obedience brings God's provision, favour and miracles. Our Children must be trained that the faith that always obeys is the faith that saves.

**5- Teach them to abide and practice the correct principles' of life:** Abraham placed Isaac on the wood and bound him on the altar. Sleeping on the woods is not a comfortable thing but Isaac obeyed his father as his father was obeying God. There are many things that God would asks you to do that you are not comfortable with but that what you need to do. Many things our children may not be comfortable to do like sleeping early, waking up early, not leaving food in their plates, washing dishes, brushing their teeth after every meal, keeping their clothes clean, reading their bibles and praying daily, diligently doing their daily lessons and studies, etc. But they need to abide to achieve that and we need to control them. Children should not control parents but parents should control their children.

As Abraham bound Isaac on the altar and made him abide, we need to do the same for our children making them abide with all their assignments and the principles of God's word. Isaac was not a small boy but he was a youth or a young adult and he was trained by his father to obey and abide from childhood up the age of adulthood.

**6- Teaching them to offer all the parts of their bodies to God:** As Abraham offered Isaac and Isaac was willing to offer his life to God, we need to train our children on the same principle, *"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living*

*sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship."* (Romans 12:1) We need to teach our children that from head to toe are for God and not for the worldly or sinful things, *"Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."* (Romans 6:13)

**7- Teaching them to give to God what he required from them:** Abraham was willing to give to God Isaac and we learned from the trial of Abraham's family that God relieved them after they were willing to give what God asked from them. We need to teach our children to give to God their tithes and their offerings. As young as they are whenever we give them some amount of money to teach them to save, we teach them also to tithe that money to the LORD. As they will grow with this principle of giving in their lives then we will be sure that God will provide for them and relief them when they are in need.

**8- Continue to follow up them to direct them in the right way of life:** Even when Isaac was a forty years old, Abraham put forward for him the principle of marriage. Some cultures they say that once the child is 16-18 years old then he or she can do what he like and decide. But that is not in the bible; as spiritual leaders over them we as parent should continue to direct hem in the ways of Lord even when they are old.

**My Dear and Beloved:** Every one of us as parents we want the future for our children to be secured and that they will be fully blessed by the Lord. But the only way to see that truly happening in their lives is when we train them in accord with God's word. Don't be intimidated with the opinion of people and what the world speaks about children nurturing. These opinions will only harm your children if you adapt them. Rather obey God and abide with his instructions as you pray.

**My Prayer:** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your clear word to me. Free me from the fear of people and give me the courage to do what your word says and to raise up my children according to your ways. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*