**Abandoned into His Hands**

**Sermon Text**

Genesis 22:1-12

**Big Idea**

God often comes to us disguised in the events of our lives, and if we let him, through the process of the seemingly mundane events, we can become the good tree that bears good fruit

**1. God comes to us disguised as life"**

While we look to the end result, God's focus is more on the process. In fact the process might very well be the end goal for God

At every one of this "major" crossroads, it's not that Abraham suddenly summoned the will power and character to act rightly. Rather it's that who he was becoming was what informed his decision-making

**2.** **The Blessedness of Possessing Nothing**

Will Abraham put himself first, and his own dreams above the request of the Father?

The crux of this matter in this passage is not the seemingly impending death of Isaac. Rather it is that Abraham and his descendants may become more attached to the promised blessings and benefits of the covenant than to God

In giving up Isaac and the promises attached to Isaac, Abraham was truly at a place of possessing nothing, a place of having God as his ultimate treasure

**3. Love Revealed: The Savior's Journey**

In Gen 22:12, God says

 "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me."

Since God offered his son for our sake, could we then say this:

* Now I know. Now I know. Since you did not spare your Son, your only begotten Son whom you love dearly, but sacrificed him for my sake, now I know that you love me and will graciously give me all things, along with him

**4. Becoming the Good Tree**

A discipline is an activity within our power--something we can do--, which brings us to a point where we can do what we at present cannot do, by direct effort. The aim of spiritual disciplines is transformation into Christlikeness

Examples: Community, Prayer, Fasting, Solitude & Silence, Scripture Memorization, etc.

**Reflection Questions**

1. How do you deal with uncertainty?
2. Pick a familiar scripture passage and memorize and meditate on it for a week. What was your experience like?
3. Engage in some solitude and silence. Was it hard? Why was it hard? Did you learn anything new about yourself