

Echo Hills

Church of Christ

July 27, 2014

A Place of New Beginnings

Abraham: Why he was 'father of the faithful'

Imagine God blessing you with a son and then the horror and the heartache when he asks you to sacrifice that son. That's what happened to Abraham and this greatest test of his faith he faced alone. He couldn't tell his son's mother, he couldn't tell others, he couldn't tell Isaac what he was doing. Abraham had always believed God and followed him but now God didn't make sense. Are you carrying a burden you can't talk to anyone about? Do what Abraham did, he kept believing and he kept trusting. Abraham didn't brood for a day, a week, or a year, he left the next day for the mountain where God had told him to take his only son's life. It was a three day trip and for those three days Isaac was as good as dead in his father's mind. When they got to the mountain a question from his son must have cut him right to his very heart, "Father, the fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb?" It took every bit of courage and faith for Abraham to express the thought Jehovah-Jireh, "God himself will provide the lamb." The comparisons between Isaac and Christ are numerous:

Comparisons of Isaac and Christ

Both were born miraculously, both born at a set time as promised by God, both Isaac and Christ were persecuted by their brothers, both Isaac and Christ were obedient to death, two young men went with Isaac to the mountain, Christ was crucified between two thieves, Isaac carried the wood up the mountain, Christ carried the cross up the same mountain, Isaac questioned his father, Christ cried out "WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?", Isaac was raised from death in a figure after being good as dead for 3 days, Christ was raised the third day "first fruits" from the dead never to die again.

Abraham and Isaac left the mountain that would become the Temple Mount and in Genesis Isaac is not heard from until he meets his bride. After the Lord Jesus ascended into heaven the world will not hear from him until he returns to take his bride, the Church, home to heaven and every eye will see him and every knee will bow to him. The whole Bible is about Jesus. History is truly HIS-story.

God tested Abraham's intellect, his will, and his emotion. In the same way God also tests us to strengthen our faith and to be an example to the believers. The story of Abraham and Isaac had a happy ending because Almighty God allowed Abraham to spare his son, but there came a day when God had the dagger in his hand and that dagger headed straight for the heart of his beloved Son and it was not stopped. It was plunged deep into the heart of our Savior on Calvary and he became our substitute on the cross. God loved you so much he would not spare his own son because the wages of sin is death and the wages had to be paid. God loves you too much to abandon you to die in your sins. He delivered up his own son so you might have fellowship with him and be saved from your sin, forgiven, and given eternal life. Without Jesus nothing makes sense.

"He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he (God) not also, along with him (Christ), graciously give us all things?" -Romans 8:32 NIV

"Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." 3 Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. ... "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" 8 Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son. ... 11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, ... "Abraham! Abraham!" ... 12 "Do not lay a hand on the boy,"... 14 So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide." -Genesis 22:2-14 NIV

– *Andy Jones*

<p><u>Last Week's</u></p> <p><u>Attendance:</u></p> <p>Sunday Morning.....65</p> <p>Sunday Night.....58</p> <p>Wednesday Night.....84</p>	<p><u>Echo Hills Ministry:</u></p> <p>This Week's Sermon: Sean Judge</p> <p>REACH Ministry Director: David Senn, Jr.</p>	<p><u>Recent Contributions:</u></p> <p>Contribution 7/20.....\$1,222</p> <p>Contribution 7/13.....\$2,098</p> <p>Contribution 7/6.....\$1,956</p> <p>Contribution 6/29.....\$1,667</p> <p>Contribution 6/8.....\$1,415</p> <p>Weekly Budget Needs.....\$1,681</p>
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- Please plan on staying for today's baby shower here at Echo Hills celebrating the coming arrival of Kaleb with Blake and Sarah Southall. The shower will be today following morning worship services with a potluck dinner planned as well!
- The website has been updated! Please take a few minutes to take a look at 'www.echohillschurch.org' and let Judy Van Dyke know if there's any changes/additions that need to be made.

- We have been having another exciting summer so please make sure to make note of upcoming events and thankful for the safe return this week of those involved with the REACH summer mission trip.
- Reminder! Girls Night Out for Bunko coming up on Monday night, July 28th from 7 to 9 pm at Echo Hills!
- In efforts to keep the bulletin up to date, please remember to email Melissa Montgomery at "mdholley@gmail.com" with any needed updates and/or removals to our list. Thank you!

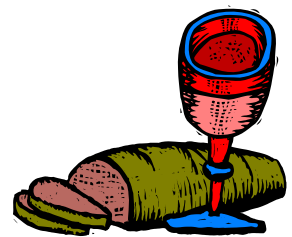
Serving on the Lord's Table this month...

July 6: Nick Veale

July 20 : Jared Dickens

July 13: Blake Southall

July 27: James Bickel



Announcements...Johnnie Anderson

If you are unable to serve, please contact Chris Hayes at 948-1071 or uthayes24@gmail.com

Those to keep in your Prayers:



- JEAN MCCASLAND SUFFERING WITH ALZHEIMER'S & DEMENTIA
- CAROL SOUTHALL (Mother of Blake Southall) DECLINING VISION
- LINDA ALLEN RECOVERING AT HOME
- CALEB WILSON
- CARDS, CALLS & VISITS MUCH APPRECIATED AT:
- ANITA SCHMITT (Friend of Ron & Jenny Lux)
- 309 ROBERT CARTWRIGHT DR.
- BLAKE & SARAH SOUTHALL
- GOODLETTSVILLE, TN 37072
- MARGARET & ANDY JONES
- (615) 851-5508
- SANDY THOMAS (Barbara Brake's daughter)
- DAVID GURCHIEK
- JUDITH LEDDING (friend of Emily Kuykendall)
- LARRY FOSTER
- MARGARET SMITH BROKEN WRIST
- JERRIE JOHNSON (Mother of Matt Johnson)
- COLETTE ANDRE
- NADINE DANIEL
- EVELYN ARNOLD
- EMILY KUYKENDALL
- MARIE CARROLL
- ROWEENA GOOLSBY
- JEFF & KIM BRAKE
- VINAY & SUNEETHA KUMAR
- JOHNIE ANDERSON FAMILY

<p>Echo Hills church of Christ 1106 Campbell Road Goodlettsville, TN 37072 Email: contact@echohillschurch.org</p>	<p>We're on the web! www.echohillschurch.org</p>	<p>Sunday Worship Classes: 9:15 am & Worship: 10:15 Sunday Night Classes: 6pm Wednesday Night Classes: 7pm</p>
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