

All to Jesus

23 - Reclaiming the Gates
Church on the Park | Sunday, 20 March 2016

Texts: John 4:21-24 & Genesis 22

Theme: True worship is giving your all to Jesus, but he is worth it all.

Intro: Today, by God's grace, we will **finish** the series the Lord commissioned me to teach on reclaiming the gates and restoring the walls of your life. In this series, I engaged in the fiercest spiritual **battle** that I have known over a series of messages. And I believe the reason is self-explanatory. I'm teaching you to **reclaim** the city of your soul **back** from the **devil**. This series has been all about **God reigning** over you in truth and restoring your life. Not **mere words**, but real **change**.

At first, I had only planned on sharing about the **gates** of the city—the ear, eye, mouth, nose and feel-gate. But then, the Lord led us to talk about how the **anointing** restores the city of your soul, both its walls and its inner workings. If none of this makes sense to you at the moment, I'd encourage you to go back to the beginning of this series (it's all on www.churchonthepark.com.au) and listen to the messages in order. The last aspect of the anointing of the Holy Spirit that we are focusing on is **worship**. The Holy Spirit **anointed** us so that we can be empowered to bring a holy, fragrant and pleasing **offering** to God. Ultimately, God is not looking for songs (alone), but your life on his **altar**. It's only the **altar** that will **alter** your life.

ALL acronym—God wants ALL of you and he's worth it ALL.

1) **ARISE! Worship begins with arising (Gen. 22:3).**

- We left off last week with Abraham and Isaac. We saw that this story is the Biblical **prototype** of true **worship**. It's the **first place** in the Bible where the word '**worship**' appears.
 - We learned: **Worship** will **cost** you **everything**, but the Lord is worth it all.
- "So Abraham **rose** early in the morning...and **arose** and went to the place of which God had told him" (Gen. 22:3).
- Abraham **arose** in **response to God's voice**.
 - **Many arise** to do their **own will**, but God is calling you to **arise** to do **his will**.
 - I need to **hear God's voice** with the **ears** of my heart if I am going **authentically worship** God.
- Worship begins with **arising**. God's **word** to me always calls me to **arise**—it doesn't leave me in the **same place**. It calls me to **get up** and **follow him**.
- Sometimes it's a call to **physically go**, other times it's a **spiritual journey**. No matter what, God wants you **spiritually moving forward**.
 - God called me to **arise** in coming to **Australia**. God called me to arise so that we can expanded to a **bigger facility** on the Queen St. Mall. God is calling me to arise to see my **mom** and pray for her full recovery.
- Abraham arose **early**—this shows his **eagerness** to obey God even at a cost.
- Arising meant **preparing**—he did the practical things like saddling the donkey, enlisting the help of others, chopping the wood and calling on his son.

- **Don't think** God is going to do everything for you. God will speak, but you have to go and do the **practical things**. (With his power, of course.)
- A leader always takes others with them.
- The **central revelation** in this passage is that the Lord is the **provider—the Lord sees to it**.
 - And yet, Abraham would never have **encountered** God as **provider** unless he arose.
 - He **couldn't** just **stay** where he was and expect the blessing to fall into his lap.
- God's **provision** comes **as** you arise and go on God's journey.
- You **don't await** for the **provision** to **start** the journey.
 - You **start** the journey in response to God's voice and then God provides.
- God is calling **our church** to now **arise**, especially in light of my emergency trip to the US.
 - **Psalm 110** tells us that the church as a whole will arise from the "**womb** of the dawn."
 - What is that womb? Who are these people?
- This journey is an **upward journey**, up the **mount** of the Lord.
- ***All throughout** the Bible God called his servants to **arise**. It's a **foundational principle** of every man and woman of God.
 - Look at **Deborah**: "The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be **until I arose; I, Deborah, arose** as a mother in Israel" (Judges 5:7).
 - The change and deliverance came as Deborah arose.
 - She was a woman in a male dominated culture and still God used her as a warrior and mighty leader.
 - So if God could use Deborah to deliver Israel and be the head leader of Israel, *can't he call women to preach and pastor?* Of course, he can and does!
- Remember also, the book of **Joshua begins** with God calling Joshua to **ARISE** (Joshua 1:2).

2) LOOK! Look to the Lord, he provides for you when you give all to him (Gen. 22:13-24).

- It's easy for you to get **afraid** when you here God **calling** you to **give** all.
- If I give, how am I going to have **enough**.
- But when you give in **response** to God's voice, you move into the **miraculous** realm.
- God provides for you when you worship him. **Obedient sacrifice** is always followed by **reward**.
- Listen to the Lord in **Genesis 22:16-19**
 - **"BECAUSE..."**
 - I will **multiply** your offspring
 - Your offspring will **possess** the **gate** of his **enemies** (he will take enemy territory).
 - He won't just be **many**, but **powerful**
 - All the **nations** of the earth will be **blessed** through your offspring
 - "Because you have **OBEYED MY VOICE**"
- This is the main lesson God is teaching worshippers. To **listen** to **God's voice** (**reclaiming** the **ear-gate**) and look to God's provision (**reclaiming** the **eye-gate**).
- **If Abraham didn't obey** he would have **missed** the **revelation** that God is PROVIDER—Jehovah Jireh.
- God has provided for you a **substitute**: **Jesus Christ**. You should die for your sins, but Jesus died in your place.
 - In this story, we see a clear substitution of **Isaac** for the **ram**.
- Here's some **verses** of **encouragement**:
 - "He who did not **spare** His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him **freely give** us **all things**?" (Rom. 8:32)

- *2 Cor. 9:6-11 (He will provide seed to the sower)
- “**Give**, and it will be **given** to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return” (Luke 6:38)

3) **LIFT! Lift up all to Jesus because he is worth it all (1 Chron. 29:10-20).**

- He has given **everything** on the **cross**. He **withheld nothing!**
- This is the **main motivation** for worship: **He is worth it!** It’s not for his **gifts**, but for **him**.
 - What would you think of a **bride** who forgot her **Bridegroom** because she was so enthralled with the **ring** he gave her (Augustine).
- As David prayed, it’s **all from him** anyway (1 Chron. 29:10-20)
 - David’s prayer the the building of the temple by his son Solomon (1 Chron. 29:10-
 - “Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, Indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth...”
 - “For **all things come from you**, and from your hand we have given you” (& cf. v. 16)
 - All giving is just given back to God what is rightfully his.
- We all need the **proper view** of our lives, our **time** and our **possessions**.
 - It’s not ours, it’s **HIS**.
- The Lord is **worth it** because of **WHO HE IS—the I AM**. He doesn’t give you a piece of him but His whole self.
 - Worship really begins with seeing God—God revealing himself to you. When you see him, you give yourself to him.
- At the **end** of the passage is the **root** word for ‘**cassia**,’ which is ‘**bowed low**’ (*1 Chron. 29:20).
- **Abraham sowed** his **son Isaac** like a **seed** and God always gives **more seed** to the sower.
- Remember, he **sees everything** that you **give**. He saw the **woman** give with the **two mites**.
- It’s not the **size** of the offering, but the **sacrifice** of the offering that matters.

Conclusion: Worship is giving ALL to Jesus and his Father. This is only possible through Jesus and by His Spirit (the anointing within you). Remember, what ALL in this message stands for. **Arise, Look** to Jesus and **Lift** up all to Him.