



Title: Who's Watching?

Date: 5.2.10

Series: Forefathers

Text: Gen 22

Synopsis: If you try to catch a 40 pound salmon on 6 pound line, your gonna get a broken line. If you try to put a 2 ton trailer on a 1 ton hitch, your gonna get a broken hitch. If you try to bench press 300 pounds with a 200 pound chest, your gonna get a broken sternum. The point is, you gotta know the strength limits. The manufacturer knows, the trainer knows, now you gotta know and the only way to know is to test it.

God tests our faith. Not so he knows. After all, he's the one that gives us faith and then strengthens that faith. He's the engineer of that faith. He knows what we can endure. No, it's so that we can know the strength of our faith, and more importantly, so that others may know.

You see, too often we think that our testing is about us, and sometimes it is. But more often our testing is for other people...the people who are watching us...our friends, our family, people who don't know our God.

This was certainly the case with Abraham. After waiting for the birth of his son for 25 years and then watching that son grow into a young man, God gives Abraham his final and greatest test...the sacrifice of his son Isaac. But why would God do that? Abraham was an old man by now. His work was done. Why would God test an old man who had been serving God for years? Sound familiar?

Abraham's test wasn't for Abraham. It was for his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. It was for the nation that would call themselves the sons of Abraham. It was for you and me and the billions of Abraham's spiritual sons and daughters. It was for the people who were watching Abraham then and the people who are watching him now. It's as if God is boasting, "Look at how strong I've made Abraham." God wants to boast about you too. He tested Abraham and he's going to test you. Not because he's mean or capricious, but because he wants to show you off to the world. You are his crowning achievement. The question is, "Are you gonna let him?"