**A Tough Decision?**

Based on [Genesis 22:1-14](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Ge22.1-14)

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Lenten Midweek 4

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With the Covid-19 crisis, our government made a tough decision. They decided to pass laws restricting the freedom to gather, mobility rights and other aspects of individual rights and freedoms. They shut down half the economy despite the risk of an economic recession to come. They could have decided to simply let Covid-19 take it’s natural course. They could have let people choose for themselves whether and how to social distance and gather. They could have waited for the world to develop herd immunity. But they decided to act.

They decided to act big and act fast, and deal with the aftermath later. People may disagree whether this was the right decision, but I think everyone would agree it is not an easy decision to make. It is not easy to have to choose between the lesser of two evils, or the lesser of two social harms.

In the reading selected for today, God gave Abraham a tough decision to make. Either obey God and sacrifice your son; or spare your son and disobey God. Abraham chose to obey God, and his faith was credited to him as righteousness.

How does the decision about COVID-19 compare with Abraham’s decision whether to obey God? They are *similar* in this: both decisions result in trading one harm for another. To quote a phrase, you’re “Damned if you do, Damned if you don’t”. That’s what’s so tough in both decisions.

But these decisions are ***different*** in one aspect. With the virus, the government really can’t know what the final outcome will be. It’s possible that, through poverty, unemployment, depression, suicide, etc, an economic recession would lead to more overall suffering and death that the virus itself. And, it’s also possible that it won’t. In any case, they have to decide based on ***incomplete information***. And their decision, in the end, might not work out for the best. It might, in fact, destroy the stability of the world as we know it. We have no guarantee that the government can hold it all together.

But, Abraham’s decision is different. Abraham knows that God can and will hold it all together, that whatever happens in the short term, God will make sure that it will all work out in the end. With God, all things work for the good of those who love him. Even with ***incomplete information,*** Abraham had an infallible source upon which to base his decision. He knew as faith know that, in all things, the best decision is to obey God. Because God will never forsake those who trust Him. He will never punish anyone for listening to him. He will never let the devil gain ground over someone who obeys His commands.

Our faith is the faith of Abraham, that is why the Church are the true sons and daughters of Abraham. As the author of Hebrews says, *17By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, 18of whom it was said, “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” 19He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.*

So all of you, in the midst of this global crisis, remember the ground of your faith. Trust in the Lord, and lean not on your own understanding. Cast your anxieties upon him, because he cares for you. Faith knows that anyone who trusts in the Lord will never be put to shame. And this faith is not your own decision, but is your gift from the Spirit who will sustain you in the evil day.