

The Third Law of Spirituality

“...Take now thy son, ...and offer him there for a burnt offering...My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering...” (Gen 22:2,8)

The Moriah sacrifice of Genesis 22 is a classic case of this law: whatever God demands, He will supply. Abraham called that place, “The Lord will provide.” The traditional English rendering of the Hebrew is Jehovah Jireh. The word “Jireh” comes from a Hebrew word meaning “to see” or “to provide”. “Herein, this is the place where God saw his need and provide the ram to meet his need. In a broader perspective, we can sum up the whole episode in three short phrases:

God saw
God demanded
God provided

In other words, God saw everything in progress, He demanded a sacrifice, and he provided what He demanded. God gave Abraham a seemingly impossible demand and then he provided supernaturally what Abraham lacked at hand. God did what only God could do. He supplied what Abraham needed to fulfill his demand. What God wanted all along was not the death of Abraham’s son but rather Abraham’s unquestioning obedience.

The Old Testament system made it clear that as a result of the fall of man, God demanded a bloody sacrifice for sin. His holiness demanded a perfect sacrifice. But we could not meet that demand. So He sent His Son to die in our place, offering himself as the final sacrifice for our sin. What God demanded from us, He gave to us. What we needed, He provided. This is the story of grace: Christianity is based on what Christ has done for us. Today, what God demanded, especially holiness is supplied through the full grace in Christ Jesus. Christ is our holiness. Christ is now the strength and grace for holy living. In the pathway of grace, we take our eyes off man and gaze into Hebrews 12:2. Christ is our only true source of grace for everything we ever need in our lifetime.