CUT THE APRON STRINGS

by Dr. Milton Redeker

Genesis 22:1-2 “God said to Abraham, “take your son, your only son and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.” You and I would run for cover if God were to tell us to do that. Scripture tells us he got up early the next morning and set out. He couldn't wait to see what God was going to do. He spoke words not of consternation but anticipation. God will provide.

At Moriah’s peak with a west wind swirling his gray hair, aging Abraham prepared his boy, his invaluable treasure, for the altar. As he raised the blade to bring it down into his son’s chest, the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and shouted, “Abraham! Abraham, don't lay a hand on the boy!”

This was the last of God’s final exams for Abraham. You'll have some in your life. Especially if you're a parent. Parenting includes interventions from the Lord to test our faith to the maximum. We'll have plenty more.

God's tests are not frivolous; they're serious. God breaks through the silence and says, “I'm right here. I'm with you in this. I now know you trust me. There's no longer any question your faith rest on Me...not with your treasure. You've passed the final exam!” Every major test that comes our way is designed to put God's character on display. That's what happens after you pass one of God's excruciating exams. Pleasure comes, Rejoicing follows, The heart sings, Faith blossoms, The spirit swells with cheer and laughter abounds!

Chances are good you're facing an Abraham-and-Isaac kind of test right now. It may be a material test---you have to let go of some cherished thing; a relational test---you need to release someone you love into God’s hands; the loss of a dream test---you have to say goodbye to the life you envisioned as it slips from your fingers. Let it go...simply, let it go.

Remember; Ultimate tests are about God. His provision is there....really it is. Anticipate the pleasures that come receiving God’s provision. It’s what is known as the other side of letting go.
Snap Shots!

Sowell Family Pickers

Star of Hope Volunteers

Texas Prison Museum
On March 10, Primetimers had the great experience of volunteering in a soup kitchen at Star of Hope in Houston serving lunch to the homeless! In addition to those who volunteered, many people donated clothing, towels and sheets, kids’ diapers, and toiletry items that we took to the Center. As requested by the staff at Star, we also took a stack of ‘God bless you’ notes handwritten by many. Debbie Hampton’s WBS class wrote over 70 cards! When we arrived at Star, we were greeted warmly by the staff, and they expressed their thanks and appreciation. Below are notes about their experience from some of the Primetimers who volunteered to go and serve lunch.

The visit to Star of Hope was the best trip ever. The need for funding is tremendous as we were told by the men’s facility staff that they feed 300-400 men three meals a day. They asked us to bring as many towels as possible the next time we come. A GREAT MINISTRY.

Milton Redeker

What an awesome experience! I was quite impressed with those in charge of the kitchen. Everything was well planned and the food looked delicious. The people who came to eat all thanked us profusely for being there to help. If the opportunity comes up again, be sure to go. I will!!!

Glenda Epp

It was a rewarding experience to see how Christians step up to the plate to take care of our poor, homeless, mentally ill and abused but not neglected because of God’s love for each of us. It was my privilege to share my small part.

Theda Kimmel

We had an interesting bus trip into parts of Houston we rarely visit. After dropping some of the women off at the women’s shelter, four men and two women went to the men’s shelter, put on aprons and served about 150 men (some men multiple times). After the meal, we attended a chapel service. We were blessed by both the serving and the worship.

George Richeson

I was impressed with the careful handling of all the systems that the SOH had in place which were required to be of consistent help to such a large number of needy people. I loved the hearts of the servers, the managers, and especially, the preacher at the chapel time. The whole experience lifted the sight of those who participated.

Charles Roberson

I loved the patience of the ladies that let us invade their kitchen space. Very impressed with the quality of the meals they serve. Loved the smiles on the faces of all the people we crossed paths with that day. My favorite was to hear the laughter of the little children and see the smiles on their precious faces. It was just a good day! "Unto the least of these you have done unto Me".

Van Roberson

We were very impressed with the staff and the Men’s Facility and it made us realize how much the Star of Hope helps the needy in Houston. Besides serving lunch, we got to attend their noon time worship service where the Gospel was presented. The men who received lunch were very grateful and thanked us for volunteering. We are very glad that we had the opportunity to volunteer, as we came away realizing how blessed we truly are.

Bob & Wanda Voss

I discovered again just how God has blessed my life...and my families' lives. I was amazed at how organized everything was. Kitchen was neat and immaculately clean; so much more than I expected.

Vickie Coody

I think what impressed me most about Star of Hope Women’s Shelter was the kindness of all the shelter workers toward their clients. The workers were never too busy to listen to a client’s need or problem. The other thing that I appreciated was how welcomed I felt in the shelter. It was a very positive experience for me.

Debbie Hampton

I want to express my thanks to Bob Voss for the initial idea of visiting Star of Hope. And thanks to those who so enthusiastically volunteered to go into this new situation, not knowing exactly what to expect, but happy to serve those in need. Star of Hope was grateful for every donation! Thank you to everyone who brought something for them. The entire experience was truly a blessing for me.

Martha Monroe
Primetime Council Members

Dir. of Senior Adult Ministries  Dr. Milton Redeker
Active Adults Director  Bob & Sherry Bock
Alpha-Omega  Bill & Sherry Moody
Alpha-Omega  Mark & Tamra Parks
Alpha-Omega  Pete & Judy Reeder
Voyagers  Judy Guy
Young at Heart  Martha Monroe
Young at Heart  Wink & Cedar Miller

If you have any suggestions for programs or personnel, please contact one of our Primetime Council Members.

Happy Birthday to YOU!

May
1 - Sherry White  17 - Bobbie Wallace
2 - Jim McLeary  18 - Vickie Coody
3 - Mary Jane Herman  19 - Bill Baker
3 - Pete Reeder  19 - Fred Domin
5 - Virginia Thomas  19 - Patrick Turley
6 - Pat Akkerman  20 - Richard Hasler
7 - Edwina Prisk  20 - Lidie Murff
7 - Henry Torrance  20 - Diane Pope
7 - Jack Vandervort  20 - Gary Smith
7 - Charles Weaver  21 - Tim Elliot
8 - Larry Barrett  22 - Phil Brimak
8 - Judy Reeder  23 - Rick Carpenter
10 - Alice Vinson  23 - Sherri Joiner
10 - Alan Wylie  23 - Mary Alice Watkins
11 - Greg Miller  25 - Rainer Krebs
13 - Doris Mortland  26 - Rick Bennett
13 - Hank Smith  28 - Linda Bromley
13 - David Ward  28 - Brenda Noll
13 - Craig Wiley  29 - Nelson Brown
15 - Nina Connelley  29 - Bobbie Norris
16 - Judy Grindstaff  30 - Len Morris
16 - Judy Guy  30 - Judy Parnell
16 - Sherry Moody  31 - Cindy Prindle
16 - Sherry Moody

June
2 - Huey Barnett  20 - Betty Redd
2 - Donna Bennett  20 - Galen Russell
4 - Gatha Moore  21 - Tom McAdoo
4 - Howie Short  22 - Cheri Burke
8 - Pamela Thompson  22 - Linda Polk
8 - Wayne Thompson  23 - Michael Engle
8 - Thomas Burks  23 - Dorothy Killingsworth
8 - Dee Gould  24 - Bill Krueger
8 - Donna Smith  24 - Debra Lee
8 - Janelle Murphy  24 - Susan Mullins
10 - Karen Kauffmann  24 - Janelle Murphy
10 - Thomas Noll  26 - Linda Bramlett
10 - Mary White  26 - Don Fanning
11 - Beryl Booker  26 - John Jennings
12 - Sabra Barnett  27 - Marilyn Browne
13 - Merrie Moffett  27 - Dave Eggebraten
16 - Chelette Baker  27 - Noma Light
17 - Deborah Williams  27 - Sylvia Proctor
18 - Libby Brown  29 - Kathy Valentine
18 - Clayton Brown  30 - Mike Duckett
19 - David Byford  30 - Joan Yarbrough

UBC Assistants are here to help!

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For additional information on the rest of our UBC staff, please visit the website: http://www.ubc.org/about/our-staff/