**THE LOVE OF THE FATHER (9-17-23 Oak Ridge, TN)**

Christians all agree that much that motivates us in our lives is the Love of our Father in Heaven. I hope this lesson can increase our appreciation for the Love our Father in Heaven has for us!

The bond of a Father and his son can sometimes be a very special, especially when the son is proud of his father and the father is proud of his son. We can see some of that in the event that happened in **Genesis Chapter 22:1-14**. Here we see the long awaited (25 years) only begotten son of Abraham; the child of promise from which a great nation and the Savior of the world would come; willingly obeyed his father through an event that most fathers and children would have avoided. ***We talk about this event often, but have we considered how proud Abraham must have been of his son Isaac?***

Now I want us to consider some things that Jesus did that made His Father proud.

* With the scribes and priests (**Luke 2:45-52**)
* When he was baptized (**Matthew 3:17, Luke 3:21-22**)
* Moments of temptation (**Matthew 4:1-11**)
* Moments when He broke down barriers of man (**John chapter 4**)
* Moments when Jesus showed extreme compassion (**Luke 5:12-13, 7:11-15,** **John 9:35-41**)
* Heartfelt prayers to His Father, can you imagine? (**Matt 14:22-23, Luke 6:12, John chapter 17**)
* Moments of extraordinary teaching, so many examples including Sermon on Mt (**Matt 22:15-22**)
* His way of life (**John 8:29, Matthew 17:5**)
* His willingness to forgive (**Luke 23:34**)

When our child does something very special, we treasure those moments and our hearts swell with pride. Jesus was indeed a special child to His Father! And then when our child has moments where they really need our help or they sincerely ask for our help, we react by being willing to do anything we possibly can to help our son or daughter, our grandson or granddaughter, our niece or nephew, or our spiritual children in our spiritual family. Many times we go to extraordinary lengths to help them, because we truly love them!

This perfect son, Jesus, pleads for His Father’s help (**Matthew 26:37-44, Mark 14:32-36**)

And this time The Father could not help His Son (**2 Corinthians 5:18-21, 1 Peter 2:21-24, 1 John 2:2, 4:8-10**). He could not rescue His Son from the cross because He knew His Son dying for us was the only way we could be redeemed from our sins! All because of God’s extraordinary love for us!

**CLOSE – Ephesians 2:4-5, Romans 5:6-11**

Truly God gave us His Perfect Only Begotten Son – Love beyond human comprehension!

***What about us?***

***Are we willing to give our lives to Him?***

***Are we willing to obey Him, even when it requires sacrifice?***

God gave use His Son and we owe Him our lives!