

Here I Am – Outline

By Edward Rangel

The message of the Bible is contained in the three words: "Here I Am." From God, from man to God, and from man to man - all have to do with service and love.

Isaiah 58:9; Genesis 22:1; 7

Introduction

- Isaiah 58:9 – “Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; You will cry, and He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you remove the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness,”
- Genesis 22:1; “Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’”
- Genesis 22:7; “Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, ‘My father!’ And he said, ‘Here I am, my son.’ And he said, ‘Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?’”
 - That which comes from God to man
 - That which goes to God, from man to God
 - That which is done for God (service of man to man)

1

From God to Man (Isaiah 58:9)

Explanation

Stop oppressing the poor who work for you: Treat people fairly, Pay your employees, Share your food with the poor, Clothe the naked, and, quit hiding from your relatives who need you! Then, (vs. 8) God will send an angel (bless you), heal you, protect you, and when you call Him He will say, Here I Am!"

- Pardon
 - God's presence is salvation
 - Psalm 42:5
 - Romans 10:8
- Power
 - Guidance
 - Exodus 13:21-22
 - God's Word is our light, power and guidance:
 - John 8:12
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Ephesians 1:18-19
 - John 16:13
- Grace
- Peace
 - Companionship:
 - John 16:33
 - Matthew 28:20;
 - Hope
 - Colossians 1:27

2

To God (Man to God) Genesis 22:1

Explanation

In every School of faith one should expect tests, and it was no exception in the life of Abraham:

1. "Family test"(Gen. 11:27–12:5).
2. "Famine test" (Gen. 12:10–13:4).
3. Once back in the land, Abraham passed the "fellowship test" (Gen. 13:5–18).
4. He also passed the "fight test" (Gen. 14:1–16).
5. He also passed the "fortune test" (Gen. 14:17–24).
6. But he failed the "fatherhood test" (Gen. 16).
7. When the time came to send Ishmael away, Abraham passed the "farewell test" (21:14–21).
8. He passed the ultimate test, the "First-born test (Genesis 21:1)

This attitude demonstrates and demands surrender, service and satisfaction on man's part.

- Surrender – Gen. 46:2
- Service Is. 6:8
 - Isaiah was willing to serve the, "Holy, Holy, Holy" (vs 3) God
- Satisfaction: When we say to God, "Here I Am," we are saying that we will be satisfied with whatever God has in store for us. Jesus said, "...your will be done" (Matthew 26:39)

3

For God (service of man to man) Genesis 22:7

Explanation

“Isaac spoke to his father Abraham and said, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” And he said, “Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” (Gen.22:7)

- Loyalty

- Saying “Here I Am” to our fellow man demonstrates loyalty to God (“...giving a cup of water to one of these in My name you have done to Me...” Matthew 25:31ff)
- Ephesians 6:7

- Love

- Galatians 5:13; “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.”

- Labor

- 2 Cor. 2:15; “I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?”
- Col. 3:23-24; “ Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for people, 24 knowing that it is from the Lord that you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”

Conclusion

We learn from Abraham's attitude when called by the Lord, "Here I Am." We learn from Isaac's attitude when he lovingly served his father and carried the wood that was intended to burn him on the altar. We also learn from the Son of God what it meant to serve others.

Above all, we learn from God that He was and has always been "Here I Am" as our protector from behind and in front, as our Savior.

With His Son hanging on the cross He calls us to obey the Gospel. Jesus Himself knocks on the door. The Messiah of the world calls, will you say, "Here I Am?"

