**Noble Generosity**
*Nothing Withheld*
Pastor Jimmy Witcher
Sunday, November 15, 2026

# Nothing Withheld

---

**Genesis 22:1–12 NLT**
Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called.
"Yes," he replied. "Here I am."
"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. "Stay here with the donkey," Abraham told the servants. "The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back." So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, Isaac turned to Abraham and said, "Father?"
"Yes, my son?" Abraham replied.
"We have the fire and the wood," the boy said, "but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?"
"God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son," Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!"
"Yes," Abraham replied. "Here I am!"

“Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

**Identity Test Questions**

1. Do I love the benefits of God more than I love God?
2. Is my identity anchored in God’s promise or in the God who made the promise?
3. Do I trust God’s character enough to obey without seeing the resolution in advance?
4. Is there a limit to my obedience?

**Hebrews 11:17–19 NLT**

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God’s promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.

**2 Samuel 24:18–24 NLT**

That day Gad came to David and said to him, “Go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.” So David went up to do what the Lord had commanded him. When Araunah saw the king and his men coming toward him, he came and bowed before the king with his face to the ground. “Why have you come, my lord the king?” Araunah asked.

David replied, “I have come to buy your threshing floor and to build an altar to the Lord there, so that he will stop the plague.”

“Take it, my lord the king, and use it as you wish,” Araunah said to David. “Here are oxen for the burnt offering, and you can use the threshing boards and ox yokes for wood to build a fire on the altar. I will give it all to you, Your Majesty, and may the Lord your God accept your sacrifice.” But the

king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on buying it, for I will not present burnt offerings to the Lord my God that have cost me nothing.” So David paid him fifty pieces of silver for the threshing floor and the oxen.

**Mark 12:41–44 NLT**
Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts.
Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins.
Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on.”

**2 Corinthians 9:6–11 NLT**
Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.” And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. As the Scriptures say, “They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.” For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous.

# Small Group Guide: Nothing Withheld

**Opening Question**
When has someone given you something that clearly cost them a lot? What did it show you about them?

**Giving First, Trusting Second**
Throughout this series, we are learning that our generosity reflects who we believe ourselves to be in Christ. We often think, “Once I have enough, then I can be generous.” But that is not how God’s kingdom works. When our identity is secure in Him, our lives become an expression of generosity and trust.
**Abraham shows us what that looks like.** Read Genesis 22:1-12. God had promised to make Abraham into a great nation, and everything pointed to Isaac. Isaac was born by miracle when Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90, and he meant everything to them. Then God asked Abraham to give him up. Pastor Jimmy walked us through the four Identity Test Questions that this test brought to the surface. Refer back to them in your notes.
God never intended for Abraham to take Isaac’s life. The test exposed where Abraham’s deepest trust rested. Abraham obeyed before he could see how God would provide, and Hebrews 11 tells us he reasoned that God was able to bring Isaac back to life. This is the true expression of a firstfruits offering: giving first, trusting second. Isaac was not a passive object in the story either. He was old enough to carry the wood, and he walked up the mountain beside his father. His trust was its own noble act. The scene also points ahead to a willing Son walking toward the altar beside a Father who would one day not spare His own.
**David shows us the cost.** Read 2 Samuel 24:18–24. After the plague, God told him to build an altar on Araunah’s threshing floor. Araunah offered it for free, but David insisted on paying, because he would not offer God something that cost him nothing. Noble generosity, by definition, costs the

giver something real. We saw it again in the widow who gave everything she had to live on.

God is not after our money. He is after our hearts. The question is whether our identity is rooted in God so deeply that we would obey Him, even when we can't see how it will turn out.

**For Discussion**

1. Our generosity reflects our identity in Christ. What does that mean in your own words?
2. Read Hebrews 11:17–19. How did Abraham's trust in God's character shape his obedience?
3. Which of the four Identity Test Questions is hardest for you to answer right now, and why?
4. David would not offer God something that cost him nothing. What would it look like for your schedule or your budget to cost you something real?
5. God is not after our money; He is after our hearts. How does that change how you think about giving? What is one way to give first and trust second this week?

**Closing Prayer Points**

Ask God to make your identity in Him so secure that you trust Him with everything. Pray that He would show you where you are holding back and give you faith to obey, even when you can't see how it will turn out.