

ADDRESS THE MESS

(5) Messy-ER

*Have you ever made a **MESS... MESSY-ER?***

*You know **WHY IT IS** that we tend to make **MESSES... MESSY-ER?***

*Because **EVERY MESS** we tend to make...
always comes with some really **BAD OPTIONS** with it!*

*When it comes to cleaning up our **COLOSSAL MESSES...**
You just have to **PICK A PLACE TO START** and then **START!***

Genesis 6:5-6...

*The Lord saw how great the **wickedness** of the **human race** had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 **The Lord regretted that he had made human beings** on the earth, and **his heart was deeply troubled.***

*God **CHOSE** to wade into the **MESSY** waters
and **CLEAN UP** the **MESS...** that **SIN** had created!*

1. The SELECTION...

Genesis 12:1...

*The Lord had said to **ABRAM**, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.*

2. A Three-Fold PROMISE...

Genesis 12:2-3...

*(1) "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
(2) I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
(3) I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*

Genesis 15:1-2...

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. **I am your shield, your very great reward.**" But Abram said, "**Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?**"

Genesis 15:4-5...

Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, **but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.**" He took him outside and said, "**Look up at the sky and count the stars - if indeed you can count them.**" Then he said to him, "**So shall your offspring be.**"

Genesis 15:6...

Abram believed the Lord,
and he credited it to him as **righteousness.**

ABRAM'S SALVATION MOMENT!

A RIGHTEOUS STANDING WITH GOD... ONLY COMES THROUGH FAITH!

Genesis 16:1-2...

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named **Hagar**; so she said to Abram, "**The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.**"

Genesis 22:2...

Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love – Isaac - and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

Genesis 22:5...

He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then **WE...** will come back to you."

Genesis 22:7...

Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "**Father?**" "**Yes, my son?**" Abraham replied. "**The fire and wood are here,**" Isaac said, "**but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**"

Genesis 22:8...

Abraham answered, "**God himself will provide the lamb** for the burnt offering, my son."...

Genesis 22:10-13...

Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "**Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.**" Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son.

GOD HAD PROVIDED A LAMB!

IN ABRAHAM... God established the **RELATIONAL GROUND RULES** for **ALL MANKIND...** **A RIGHT STANDING WITH GOD...** **COMES THROUGH FAITH... IN THE PROMISES OF GOD!**

God's Message could not have been any clearer... the **SOLUTION TO SIN** was not in **RULE-KEEPING...** it was in **RELATIONSHIP!**

GOD GAVE him what he **NEEDED MOST** and **DESERVED THE LEAST...** **FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD!**

James 2:23...

*And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham **believed** God, and it was credited to him as **righteousness**," and he was called **GOD'S FRIEND**.*

*When the **ONE TRUE GOD** initiated **HIS RELATIONSHIP** with **MANKIND**... it **DIDN'T** (And **still DOESN'T!**) begin with a **COMMAND**... it **BEGAN** (And **still DOES!**) with an **INVITATION**...*
WILL YOU TRUST ME?

Romans 4:13/16...

*(13) It was not through the **law** that Abraham and his offspring received the **promise** that he would be heir of the world, but through the **Righteousness** that comes by **FAITH**.*

*(16) Therefore, the **promise** comes by **FAITH**, so that it may be by **GRACE** and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring - not only to those who are of the **law** but also to those who have the **FAITH** of Abraham. He is the father of us all.*
