

## **How Great The Father’s Love For Us** A Communion Meditation

Introduction: What is God like?

A. Propositional Statements: Ephesians 3:14-19

B. Self-disclosures of God

- Isaiah 6
- Exodus 33-34
- John 1

C. Human parables

I. **Two reflections of a Father’s heart** (Matthew 1:1-2, 6)

A. **Abraham and Isaac:** The Father’s love for his \_\_\_\_\_ Son (Genesis 22; Romans 8:32; 1 Peter 1:14-19).

1. Foreshadows of the Passion (Hebrews 11:17-19)

- Isaac was Abraham’s “only” son, whom he loved
- The sacrifice took place on Mt. Moriah, the future site of Solomon’s temple
- The ordeal took three days, start to finish
- Isaac carried the “wood” for the sacrifice on his back
- Isaac was apparently submissive to his father’s will
- The father “offered up” his son (Heb. 11:17)
- The father anticipated the resurrection of his son (Heb. 11:19)
- The sacrifice was provided by God (Gen. 22:8; 13)
- Release from death comes by means of a substitute

2. Key differences in the Events

- In the case of Jesus, the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Abraham sacrificed son out of love for God; God sacrificed his Son out of love for \_\_\_\_\_.

B. **David and Absalom:** The Father’s love for his rebel son (Ezek. 18:30-32; Luke 19:41-42; 2 Peter 3:9) In this story we encounter . . .

1. . . . the anguish of a father over a son’s \_\_\_\_\_.
2. . . . the extreme difficulty of inflicting severe punishment on one’s own \_\_\_\_\_
3. . . . the human \_\_\_\_\_ of overcoming the curse of sin in order to effect full restoration of the sinner. David did not have it in his power to undo two effects of Absalom’s sin:
  - His \_\_\_\_\_
  - His \_\_\_\_\_ nature
4. . . . a foreshadowing of the nature of the \_\_\_\_\_ solution (2 Sam. 18:33)

II. **The Ultimate Revelation of a Father’s Heart** (Matthew 1:21-23; Roman 5:8; 2 Cor. 5:19; 1 John 4:10)