***Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”).***

**Genesis 22:13-14a NLT**

Heading into a new year, there is a lot of talk about resolutions and what changes people want to make. Working out more, eating better, reading our bibles everyday – things that will ultimately better ourselves. Seldom do you hear what we want to sacrifice. We might be willing to give something up for a designated amount of time, like sweets during a fast, but we know that there will be a time that we can have that cheesecake again without “cheating.”

But what would our lives look like if we asked God “What is in my life that you would like me to sacrifice and give up for you?” Granted, Abraham didn’t ask God this question, but God told him to sacrifice the thing that he loved so much – the thing that had been promised to him and that he had trusted God for.

We aren’t given details of the struggle this had to have been for Abraham, the thoughts that ran through his head. I think of that, but that comes from a place of my modern concept of entitlement – I deserve to know, or show me the ultimate benefit of this because it doesn’t make sense. We just know that Abraham had faith that God would honor his obedience and had faith that He would provide. In verse 5 of this chapter, Moses told his servants that he and his son would return after worshipping.

I asked my niece about her favorite passage in the bible and I was surprised that is was what it is. Before I got a chance to ask why, she said “I love the fact that Abraham trusted God so much that even if he did actually kill Isaac as God told him, he believed God would raise Isaac from the dead because he told his servants that they would both be returning.” It is where we see Yahweh-Yireh (Jehovah Jireh) introduced – that God will provide.

I’ll be honest, I never looked at that small detail in verse 5 before, but her awe of Abraham’s obedience and faith and God’s faithfulness was contagious and all I thought about for several hours.

Today I am asking myself, in this year, is God asking me to sacrifice anything that I am hanging onto tightly, placing a value on it over Him. If so, do I trust Him enough to provide for me in my obedience – not going through the motions with the expectation in the back of my mind that I will get to keep it, but willing to trust Him that whatever His provision is will be not only enough but the best for me?