

Episode: Servant of God Series No. 4

Narrator: Mary

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 22:5, 1 Samuel 7:3, Luke 4:8

Story Summary: Servants of God worship him and him only

Location: Israel

Time: 40 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Genesis 22:5

The Old Testament narrative generally follows a progression of: worship God; stop worshipping other gods; and, worship and serve God only.

According to Joshua 24:2, the ancestors of Abraham worshipped other gods. Genesis 22:5 is the first mention of anyone worshipping God. It was Abraham saying he was taking Isaac to the mountain to worship God. From then on, Abraham and many of his descendants worship God, but it seems that many of them worship other gods, too.

At the burning bush, in Exodus 3:12, God tells Moses that he and the people are to worship God when they are delivered from Egypt. In Exodus 20:4, the Second Commandment requires the people of God not to worship any idols or anything other than God. The rest of the Old Testament seems to be a running battle of the Hebrews worshipping God and other gods, God punishing them until they repent, them repenting and turning to God only, and them returning to worship other gods, too.

When the New Testament opens, it seems as if the Jews have stopped worshipping other idols and gods. In fact, the Roman Empire exempted them from worshipping the Emperor or other Roman gods. However, the Jews are constantly at risk of worshipping other things having to do with worldly wealth and acclaim. It appears they often worshiped the Scriptures instead of the One who the Scriptures were about.

Luke 4:1-13 records the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. In the second temptation, Satan offers to give Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship him. Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the people, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."¹ Paul wrote that everyone is either a slave to sin or to obedience which leads to righteousness.²

There is always a choice whether to serve God or something else. You cannot do both. Jesus strongly recommends that you choose God.

¹ Matthew 6:24

² Romans 6:16