



Day 15 “Hope in Unlikely Places Key”

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by
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Key Verse: Psalm 78:15-16 *“He split the rock in the desert and gave them an ocean of fresh water. He brought a stream of water out of the rock and made it flow like a river.”*

I love that while Israel was whining and plodding along in the desert that God chose to bring fresh water from a rock - a rock! Not a cactus or a cloud but a rock! The absolute last place you would expect to find any water. After reading the passages for today I was really struck how God is in the business of using the unlikely and hopeless to bring about His glory. Take a look at Romans 4:18 - it talks about how there was no hope that Abraham would have any children but he believed God and continued to hope because God said he would be the father of many nations. My first thought is, “Good for Abraham but what about Sarah?!” If God told me that I was having a baby at 100 I would have laughed too!! Isn’t it lovely that God chose a barren, geriatric woman to be the mother of many nations. Isn’t God funny?

Faith is easy to claim and sing about when we are surrounded by blessing. But what happens when the bottom falls out from beneath our feet? Hope feels absent in those moments and we are tempted to give up. What if in those hard moments we said no to our worries, doubts and fears? What if we chose to do something different? What if we trusted God and thanked Him in advance for what He is about to do? What if we praised Him for His faithfulness and we remembered this old story of Abraham and Sarah? What if we expectantly watched to see what God was up too and patiently waited for Him to move? God doesn’t want us to trudge through this life as people who have no hope but He does want to make sure our hope is in the right place - with Him.

In these passages God is calling us to remember that he has shown up in the past and that He will show up again. That the people and situations that we might write off as hopeless is the very spot where Jesus is preparing to shine brightest. That His faithfulness will pour out of the unlikely places and that He is with us even when all we can see is rocks. My hope for us this Lenten season is that we would free fall into the faithfulness of God alone and that our faith would shine out of our faces as we learn to trust Him.

Prayer: *Father I thank you that you bring life and refreshing from the most unlikely places. May we not be limited in our faith by trusting only what we see and understand but by trusting You, the God who brings babies to senior citizens and water from rocks.*

Scriptures: Psalm 78, Jeremiah 7:21-24, Romans 4:13-25, John 7:37-52