**You Did Laugh!**

Fitchburg Nazarene Church

June 14, 2020

by

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**(These are the Pastor’s notes. He may have said more which is not noted here. He could have ignored certain portions of these notes in our actual service.)**

**PRAYER**

Lord God, friend of those in need, your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.

We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing, those in need within the church and the world.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.

We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors, on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 14, 2020**

**Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7**

1The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3He said, *“If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.* 4*Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.* 5*Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant.”*

*“Very well,”* they answered, *“do as you say.”*

6So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. *“Quick,”* he said, *“get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread.”*

7Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9*“Where is your wife Sarah?”* they asked him.

*“There, in the tent,”* he said.

10Then one of them said, *“I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”*

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, *“After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”*

13Then the Lord said to Abraham, *“Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’* 14*Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”*

15Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, *“I did not laugh.”*

But he said, *“Yes, you did laugh.”*

**Gen. 21:1-7**

1Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. 3Abraham gave the name Isaac a to the son Sarah bore him. 4When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” 7And she added, *“Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”*

**PRAYER**

**Good training**

**Promises past believable**

**Faithfulness of God**

**Good training**

**Eyes wide open** – In **Vs. 2a** Abraham is taking notice of what is around him.

 **Preferring others** – In **Vs. 2b-5**, Abraham invites guests in a humble manner; bowing low before them. He offers all the amenities: washed feet, shade, food, rest.

Everything Abraham did here, showed that he was a man who was not beyond putting himself out, that others might be served. Yes, he had plenty. But he also saw to all the details of his guests’ stay; even if it was just to carefully see that each person did their job.

**Vs. 6** he addresses Sarah regarding bread.

**Vs. 7** he addresses a servant regarding a “choice, tender calf”.

**Vs. 8** he brought some curds and milk and the prepared calf. He laid out the banquet!

Abraham is seeing to every detail of his guests’ comfort – even if he isn’t doing each job himself.

He could have gone into his tent and feigned that he ever saw those three men standing there. But he stuck to his training.

**Do we have good training?**

**Do we stick to it, or do we shy away in “our tents,” content to let the world go past our door, without bidding them enter?**

Listen to Abraham’s entreaty: **Vs. 3**

*…my lord, do not pass your servant by.*

Notice the preeminence Abraham places on one of these men – **my lord**. He wants his guest to not just be entertained with a good time – he places high value on their very being. My lord.

***Do not pass your servant by.***

What a picture of welcomed service to a stranger! Again, notice the position he places himself in – *your servant.*

**Promises past believable**

When is the last time you thought about the blessings of God in your life, and you LAUGHED at the absurd magnificence of the promised blessing?

**Why would anyone bless me like this?**

**How could He promise something so wonderful to someone like me?**

**Well, the Lord can – and He does!**

**2 Corinthians 1:20-22**

20For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “***Yes***” in Christ. And so, through him the “***Amen***” is spoken by us to the glory of God. 21Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, 22set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

1Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

**The crux of the promises** – both to ourselves as God’s children, and to 90-year-old Sarah – is in the power of the one making the promise… **vs. 14**

14*Is anything too hard for the Lord?*

This same power would be at work in the virgin birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Faithfulness of God**

**Gen. 21**: 1Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and **the Lord did** for Sarah **what he had promised**. 2Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

**2 Peter 3:9**

9The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead **he is patient with you**, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

**Romans 3:3-4**

3What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God’s faithfulness? 4Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written:

*“So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge.”*

**PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

[20](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/13-20.htm)**Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,**[21](http://biblehub.com/hebrews/13-21.htm)**equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

(Hebrews 13:20-21)