

Joy: Real Joy

Genesis 18:9-15; 21:1-7 1/28/24

Outline

"Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, 'The LORD has done great things for them.'" Psalm 126:2

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22

"All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast." Proverbs 15:15

"Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." Luke 6:21

⁹ "Where is Sarah, your wife?" the visitors asked.

"She's inside the tent," Abraham replied.

¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!"

Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. ¹² So she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?"

¹³ Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah was afraid, so she denied it, saying, "I didn't laugh."

But the LORD said, "No, you did laugh." Genesis 18:1-15

"The LORD kept his word and did for Sarah exactly what he had promised. ² She became pregnant, and she gave birth to a son for Abraham in his old age. This happened at just the time God had said it would. ³ And Abraham named their son Isaac. ⁴ Eight days after Isaac was born, Abraham circumcised him as God had commanded. ⁵ Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

⁶ And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter. All who hear about this will laugh with me. ⁷ Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse a baby? Yet I have given Abraham a son in his old age!" Genesis 21:1-7

I. God Comes to Sarah.

"Then" then one of them..." (VS. 10)

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"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Revelation 3:20

II. How God Came to Sarah.

"How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?" (vs. 12)

"And now God promises me a child? Now that it's too late and Abraham is too old! Pfff! What a load of crock!"

"I'm going to have a child? How is that going to happen. We haven't been intimate in years. He doesn't even notice me!"

"Yes, you will have a child!" (vs. 14)

"Oh, but you did! Gotcha!" (vs. 15)

III. Why God Came to Sarah.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (vs. 14)

And Sarah declared, "God has brought me laughter." Genesis 21:6

"Fearfully and wonderfully made" Psalm 139:14

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All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.” Romans 5:6.