

Thursday, August 14

Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7. Sarah truly was a princess of laughter. While some have suggested that Sarah's laughter was indicative of her disbelief in God's promise, some scholars suggest that her laughter is nothing more than her nervousness and perhaps her laughter was in response to the absurdity of God's promise. Sarah seems well within her rights to think God's promise was absurd; after all, she has waited twenty-five years for that promise to be fulfilled!

How patient are you? Don't think too much about it. How patient are you? How long should you wait for God to work in and through your life? Sarah wasn't the only person to wonder that. The Psalms are filled with the question, "How long?" (4:2, 13:1-2, 35:17 and 94:3 to name a few) Have you ever been impatient with God? If you have are in good company! The greater questions is what do you do when you are impatient with our Almighty God? Write some of your ideas here.

Friday, August 15

Genesis 18:1-15 and 21:1-7. Nothing is too wonderful for God! Those are the words of hope often offered when a person's back is against the wall and they are suffering. Perhaps their anguish is physical or perhaps they are experiencing a mental health crisis. The pain is real and is natural for doubt and despair to tag-team attack your well-being and faith.

In times of doubt and despair it is helpful to remember the words of Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me!" We simply need to remember that wherever we are, God is with us! God knows our suffering through Jesus the Christ and God is present to us in our suffering. That knowledge is perhaps the only thing that keeps us sane in difficult times. Give thank to our loving Creator.

Message Notes August 10, 2025

Women of the Bible

*Sarai (Sarah) – Princess of Laughter**

- I. Names are interesting and the stories of naming children as well as the _____ of names can be fascinating.
 - A. The Sarah of our scriptures was named Sarai, which means "my _____" or "my _____."
 - B. While Sarai means "my princess," Sarah means "princess of a _____."
 1. We have to do a little digging to find the _____ of women in the Bible.
 2. The treatment of women in society and the church is more of a matter of _____ tradition than _____-granted calling or status.
 3. Sarah is called by God _____ Abraham.
- II. The nature of Sarah and Abrahams life is truly a partnership born out of deep love and _____.
 - A. The covenant with God was _____ and _____ several times throughout Sarah's life.
 - B. Many Bible scholars believe that the three visitors are _____ of the Lord.
 1. The important part of this encounter with the three strangers is Sarah's _____.
 2. Genesis 18 tells us, "Sarah _____." (You can hardly blame her!)
 3. Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for ____; _____ who hears will laugh with me."
- III. Sarah was _____ years old when Issac was born.

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

- A. You may remember that Isaac's name was changed to Israel and became the father of twelve _____ and thus the twelve _____ of Israel.
- B. Sarah had indeed become the "princess of a _____" and the "mother of the _____ of Israel."

- IV. Sarah's life story is full of _____, trials and disappointment; but she experienced that God keeps _____ made.
- A. Sarah is the only woman whose age at 127 is mentioned in scripture upon her death signifying her _____ along with the many men in our scriptures.
 - B. The promise fulfilled is key as we discover that nothing is too wonderful or difficult for God.
 - C. The message that nothing is impossible with God endures throughout the _____ and in our lives _____.
 - D. While Sarah hasn't had the proverbial _____, she has certainly had a _____ that has _____!

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, August 11

The famous line "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." was written by William Shakespeare in his play Romeo and Juliet. The idea that the name of anything doesn't affect its essence. Our names often have meaning and perhaps a story that accompanies it. How about your name? Do you know what your name means? Do you know the language from which your name comes? Is there a story to your name? Contemplate these questions and write your reflections here.

Tuesday, August 12

Read Genesis 17:1-16. This is the point in Abram and Sarai's journey when God changes their name to remind them of the promise that God has made to them. They will become the father and mother of a great nation. That has always been the promise but here Abram and Sarai are, twenty-five years later, and God is still promising that Sarai – now Sarah – will have a child.

Even if we make allowances for the Old Testament practice of exaggerating people's age, this promise is falling on deaf ears. In chapter 18 (part of our scripture lesson for today) Abraham speaks clearly that "it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women." (verse 11) In other words, Sarah is beyond her child-bearing years. This is when we hear those words of hope, "Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?" What do you think Sarah felt at that moment? Have you ever been told that you were expected to be a part of something that seems impossible? How would you respond to such a moment? Does God really work outside of the laws of nature? What are your thoughts? Pray over these questions and write your ideas here.

Wednesday, August 13

Read Genesis 12:1-7. This is the original call upon Abram and Sarai. In the beginning, it is a very non-descript call simply to "Go." Abram is asked to go from the land he was occupying and the people he knew best and loved most; he was to completely pack up his life – his family, all belongings, servants and cattle - and head out!

There may have been some direction that we are not privy to because they headed toward Canaan to the place where the oaks of Moreh (or Mamre) grow. Abraham likes these trees and they offer wonderful shade from the harsh hot sun. Think about God's call upon your life? What does God expect of you? How would you react to such a nebulous call such as Abram experienced? Meditate on these questions and write your thoughts here.