

"Is Anything Too Wonderful for the LORD?"

Genesis 18:1-15

CONTEXT

1. This is the beginning of the end of Abraham's 25-year ordeal of waiting for a promised son.
2. Abraham and Sarah have come to the end of their resources.
3. Sarah is not convinced the promised son is possible—she is 90 years old!
4. The LORD and two angels arrive as unexpected guests. v.1

ABRAHAM'S HOSPITALITY FOR UNEXPECTED GUESTS. v.2-8

1. Abraham took the initiative TO WELCOME them. v.2
 - He looked first; he made eye contact. *He lifted up his eyes and looked...*
 - He initiated interaction; he approached them. *When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them...*
 - He was humble and gracious; he bowed down. *...and bowed himself to the earth...*
2. Abraham took the initiative TO SPEAK WITH them. v.3-5
 - He initiated the conversation; he spoke first. v.3
 - He invited the guests to have fellowship with him. *Do not pass by...but rest here for a while...*
 - He tried to make them comfortable. v.4, 5 *...rest yourselves...I will bring bread...refresh yourselves...*
 - He expected nothing in return. v.5 *...and after that you may pass on...*
3. Abraham chose TO SERVE them. v.6-8
 - He hurried (v.6) and ran (v.7) in the heat of the day (v.1).
 - He provided a meal at his expense. v.6-8a *...three seahs of fine flour...a choice calf from the herd...*
 - He served them and 'waited' on them. v.8b *...And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.*

GOD'S MIRACULOUS PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND SARAH. v.9-15

1. This visit seems aimed at Sarah. v.9-10
 - The visitors ask specifically for her. v.9
 - The LORD repeats the promise of a son within her hearing. v.10; Ref. 17:16
2. Sarah laughs to herself when she hears the promise firsthand. v.11-12
 - She looked at their age and ability—rather than the promise and power of the LORD. v.11
 - She laughed to herself. v.12
3. The LORD spoke to Abraham regarding Sarah's response. 13-15
 - He asked Abraham's about his wife's laughter: "Why did Sarah laugh and say...?" v.13
 - Key Verse: v.14: "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" Ref. Jer 32:17, 27
 - The LORD confronted Sarah about her laugh—and she lied. v.15
 - Note: 1 Peter 3:5-6 (The only time we see Sarah call Abraham "lord" is in this text.)

APPLICATIONS: Why should we actively reach out and welcome others?

1. Evangelism & Discipleship: We are commanded to—and God's Spirit often prompts us to do so.
 - Matthew 28:26-28. E.g., Philip in Acts 8:29f
2. Because Israel used to be strangers in a foreign land.
→ Why did Moses include these verses? (Genesis 18:1-8) Ref. Gen. 15:13; Exodus 22:21; 23:9
3. Blessing often comes to the one who reaches out and welcomes guests.
 - Hebrews 13:2: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
4. Looking out for guests and strangers is looking out for Jesus.
 - Matthew 25:40: *Whatever you did for the least of these...you did for Me.*
5. Because God welcomed us into His household through faith in His Son Jesus Christ.
 - We once were not only 'strangers' to God and His household—but enemies.
Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 2:12-13