



GOD SPEAKS TO ABRAHAM & SARAH

GENESIS 18:1-33



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"Is there anything too hard for the Lord?"
Genesis 18: 14

One of the songs my kids used to sing all the time goes like this – and imagine with me, if you will, the overly dramatic hand motions that go along with the words: "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do." We all probably believe this, at least in theory. We know that God can do all things, that He can do what He promises. But do we really believe that He can when it really comes down to it? When it comes to our biggest dreams and the deepest desires of our heart? We need to be reminded of God's promises, over and over again.

In today's passage, we see God declaring and repeating His promise to Abraham. First, God appears to Abraham in the flesh along with several other men. They ask for Abraham's wife, whom they call by her new name, Sarah, which was given to her just days before, along with the promise of God: "As for Sarai your wife... her name will now be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her." (Genesis 17:15-16).

This time, Sarah was able to hear God's promise directly with her own ears when God repeats His promise to Abraham: "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." (v. 10).

Imagine what Sarah must have felt hearing these words that God spoke aloud. A child born to her, something that she and Abraham had longed for all their lives. A desire that was never met, that most likely had been pushed to the recesses of their hearts and minds as each year passed. It must have seemed impossible. God was promising that which they had most wanted all their lives and, still, it was hard to believe God's promise. Sarah laughed to herself at the seemingly ridiculous notion. She doubted the promise.

But God, who sees our heart and hears our unspoken thoughts, spoke to Abraham: "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old? Is anything too hard for the Lord?'" I love that instead of removing the promise, He simply repeats His promise yet again: "I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son." (v. 13-14). Even in the wake of Sarah's doubt, God remained faithful, because even "if we are faithless, He will remain faithful" (2 Timothy 2:13). I also love that the Hebrew word God used for "hard" also means "wonderful." Is anything too wonderful for our God? Our deepest desires, those hopes we are hesitant to whisper because they mean too much to us, those dreams that are almost too wonderful to dream – they are not too hard for the Lord. He comes close to Abraham and Sarah, and to us, to remind us of His promises.

Lord, help us to trust that You are faithful and that You will come near and speak to us, even if we sometimes doubt Your Promises. Help us to believe that You are so big, so strong and so mighty, and that there is nothing too hard or wonderful for You. Thank You that in Jesus, Emmanuel God-with-us, You came close and delivered Your Faithful Promise in the flesh. Amen.