

SARAH - WOMAN WHO LAUGHS

Laughter - UNCONTROLLABLE EMOTION, REFLEX, CONTAGIOUS

E. W. Wilcox's MAXIM "Laugh and the world laugh's with you; weep, and you weep alone"

MOTHER'S DAY - MOTHER MAKE HOME A PLACE OF JOY, FUN, LAUGHTER

SWEET MEMORIES OF FUN FAMILY TIMES

PROBLEM - DIFFERENT KINDS OF LAUGHTER - NOT ALL LAUGHTER IS GOOD

NOT ALL IS INNOCENT AND LIGHT-HEARTED

SOME IS SCORNFUL AND INSULTING, EVEN ARROGANT

1. Laughter of Doubt Genesis 17.15-19

Gen 12.1-3 - PROMISE OF A NATION (Son, Land, Blessing)

12.4 - Abe 75 years old

12.11 - Beautiful wife named Sarai

a. Long Wait v. 1 Prov 14.13 2 Peter 3.9 Revelation 6.10

LONLINESS - SEPARATION FROM FAMILY

STRUGGLE OF INFERTILITY

SHAME OF NAME CHANGE

b. Ritual or Reality? v. 17 Isaiah 29.13 2 Tim 3.5

WHAT ARE YOUR MOTIVES FOR SEEKING GOD? best looking girls!

want to be healed, want friends, seeking a mate, lonely

GOD ACCEPTS US WHERE WE ARE AT - WANTS TO MOVE US FORWARD

SIGN OF MATURITY - EMPTINESS IS FILLED BEST BY GOD ALONE

YOU CAN BEGIN THERE - BUT NOT STAY THERE

c. Better Plan v. 18,15,16 16.2 Proverbs 14.12

SARAH WOULD BE A PRINCESS - A MOTHER OF KINGDOMS

2. Laughter of Denial Genesis 18.9-15

SARAH NOW 89 YEARS OLD - STILL REMARKABLY BEAUTIFUL

SARAH ESPECIALLY FELT THE SHAME OF CHILDLESSNESS

PROBLEM WAS CLEARLY WITH HER - ABE HAD A SON W/ HAGAR

a. Spread of Sin vs. 12,15 2 Tim 2.26

LAUGHTER OF UNBELIEF - Unbelief is sin

John Stott "Unbelief is not a misfortune to be pitied, it is a sin to be deplored. Its sinfulness lies in the fact that it contradicts the word of the one true God and thus attributes falsehood to Him"

LEAD TO A LIE - ENDLESS TASK OF COVERING OUR SIN

Mark Twain "a lie can race around the world, while the truth is still lacing on it's shoes"

Abraham Lincoln "a liar better have a good memory"

SO MUCH EASIER TO REPENT OF IT, FORSAKE IT

John 8.34

YOU THINK YOU CAN CONTROL YOUR DRINKING, LIES, MASTURBATION

YOU ARE CONTROLLED BY YOUR SINS 2 TIM 2.26

b. Seriousness of Sin v. 13 Romans 6.23

v. 15 COME ON GOD, CAN'T YOU TAKE A JOKE, WHAT A KILLJOY!

c. Savior from Sin v. 14 Jeremiah 32.27 1 John 5.9

SAVED BY BELIEF IN THE PROMISE

Genesis 15.6 - quoted 3 X's in NT - ESSENCE OF FAITH

MANY WAYS WE REFUSE TO BELIEVE GOD

1. SALVATION - God may save others but not me

2. FAMILY - Mother's Day may be a painful memory for you

Mother who is lost in sin // Child who remains a Prodigal

WE THINK THEY ARE BEYOND GOD'S REACH

3. FUTURE - schooling, employment, retirement, death

GOD MAY BE AROUND FOR NOW - CAN I DEPEND ON HIM TOMORROW?

3. Laughter of Delight Genesis 21.1-7

LAUGHTER - BELIEVING, SPONTANEOUS, AND UNCONTROLLED

a. Reward of Faith vs. 1,2 Galatians 4.27,28 Hebrews 11.11,12

ABE & SARAH - PEOPLE OF FAITH // FOCUS IS ON GOD NOT THEM

"the Lord was gracious to Sarah"

"the Lord did for Sarah"

"God had promised him"

b. Laughter vs. 3,6,7 17.19 Psalm 126.1,2 Luke 10.21 1 Peter 1.8,9

c. Praise Isaiah 51.1,2 1 Peter 3.5,6

SARAH IS COMMENDED IN SCRIPTURE - SINS ARE EXCEPTION NOT RULE

WOMEN TOLD TO LOOK TO HER – OT & NT

NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE ARE WOMEN TOLD TO MODEL VIRGIN MARY