

Ascension Lutheran Church

Pastor Godkin's Sermon for the week of July 18, 2010

Who Has the Last Laugh (Genesis 18:10-14)

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Our text is from the 18th chapter of Genesis:

¹⁰“Then the LORD said, ‘I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.’ Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. ¹¹Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, ‘After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?’ ¹³Then the LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh and say, “Will I really have a child, now that I am old?” ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.’”

This is the text.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, sometimes we hear people say that God must have a sense of humour. We know the word joy is found frequently in the Scriptures. What about the word laugh? Laughter is mentioned 33 times in the Old Testament and 6 times in the New Testament. Sometimes laughter is brought about by doubt and unbelief. At other times it is a laughter of joy over the salvation God has won for us.

God wants us to laugh for joy for the salvation He has won for us. Jesus tells us in His own words, “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh” (Lk. 6:21). There may be sorrow in our lives and perhaps reasons for us to weep. But there will come a time when the weeping will be replaced by laughter over what God has done for us, and we will weep no more.

In our text it says that Sarah laughed and she is the only one in the chapter before when God promised Abraham a son in his old age. It says that Abraham laughed. We laugh in joy and sometimes in unbelief. And the question is, Who gets the last laugh? As the old saying goes, “He who laughs last laughs best.”

Take, for example, Abraham laughing at God's promise to himself. When God promised Abraham a son, “Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, ‘Will I as an old man have a child?’” (Gen 17:17). Abraham did not think it was possible. So he had a son by Sarah's maid. But God was talking about that son. God was talking about the son that would come from Sarah.

God then invited Abraham to “look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them. So shall your offspring be” (Gen 15:5). Is it surprising that at nearly 100 years of age Abraham laughed at such a promise? Yet, God would work a miracle. Abraham laughed in doubt when the promise was made. But it was no joke. God would keep the promise. Abraham would laugh again, not in doubt but in joy over the birth of his son.

time of life, since she considered him faithful who that again? By faith! By faith in the promise of God laughter of fun belief is changed to the laughter of joy when their son was born.

There would be another special Son born. A Son of the world. In Him all nations of the world would be blessed. Abraham. From his seed would come forth one who would. Yes, they would laugh at this Son. They would laugh of God. They would laugh at him when he would not laugh in unbelief, scorn, and mockery. Still the to the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life day" (Jn 6:40). Noway, they said. Yet, once again astonishing, unique promise is that through Jesus Christ

Through Christ you are sons and daughters of God. Just to Abraham and Sarah, so we are children of the promise. He was the Promised One from Abraham's line, from David's line. He is living proof that God keeps His promises, for He rose again on the third day and is alive today. "To those who believe become children of God" (Jn 1:12).

Today God wants you to laugh for joy. He wants you made to you. Sarah confessed, "God has brought me out about this will laugh with me" (Gen 21:6). God has laugh at your faith, your witness in this world. But His promises. You will stand before the throne of God you are in heaven forever. Let's emulate Mary and I by His Word that we can have the power to turn from world and our sinful desires and receive a new life God's ways.

Now back to our original question: Who got the last Abraham did too. But God got the last laugh. For He them would be Isaac. In this we find a touch of God Hebrew name Isaac translated "he laughs." God got Christ God will give you the joy of laughter in His His promises. And through His promise, you will laugh God that surpasses all understanding keep your heart Amen.

had promised" (Heb 11:11). How was d, promises He always keeps, the joy. Abraham and Sarah did laugh for

promise! Promised by God to the sessed. This, too, was the promise to l'd be blessing to all people. because he said he was the Son omed down from the cross. They promise is sure, "Everyone who looks ife, and I will raise him up at the last God keeps His promises. The most hristy you have eternal life.

Just as a son of promise was born misemad to us in Jesus Christ. David's line. He has conquered promises, for He rose again on the din his name, He gave us the right to

to know He will keep His promises aughter, and everyone who hears brought you out to laugh too. Others tw who cares! You are laughing for joy in ods some day and laugh for joy for istent to Him each day. For it is only the distractions of the passing and the Holy Spirit to guide us in

laugh? Sarah laughed at God, and said the name of the son born to 's sense of humour, because the t the last laugh. Through Jesus forgiveness, in His salvation, and in gh forever. Amen. The peace of ts and minds in Christ Jesus.