

Surprise Visit 2

Intro: Last week we looked at what a Surprise Visit from God may look like if we are like Jacob...

Trying to trick our way through life with our own skills...

Rather than relying on God's power and provision for us...

I. A Surprise Visit from God looks much different when we are following Him...

And waiting for His provision and promises...

Genesis 18:1-15

18 The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

10 Then one of them 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. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

A. At this point in Abraham's life God had appeared to him at least three times and promised that He would be the father of a great nation.

1. The visit was a surprise, but the promise wasn't.

2. Abraham was waiting, Sarah was doubting.

a. With good reason, her and Abraham were VERY OLD!

b. This was going to take a miracle...

II. Following and serving God we should all have a promise or two we are holding on to.

A. Sometimes it seems as if those promises are way past due.

Surprise Visit 2

1. We must continue to wait because someday the Lord will visit us.

III. How do we wait? Expectantly...

Vs. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

- A. The Lord had visited Abraham prior to this meeting, he was positive it would happen again.

1. How many times has the Lord visited you?

- a. He is always present... Waiting for the right moment to surprise you.

IV. When the Lord shows up how do we respond?

We open up our life and resources to Him...

Vs.3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

- A. Lord do not pass your servant by...

1. I am here and I am ready to serve you...

- B. Every day...

1. Lord here I am... Fill me with your Holy Spirit...

2. Do not pass me by... I am ready to serve you...

V. When the Lord shows up sometimes it is to affirm the promise, not fulfill it...

Vs. 10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

- A. All right finally... Whaaat?

1. Look for God's signs of affirmation along your life's journey...

- a. They are there... But you need to be looking for them...

1. A red car...

VI. Remember who you are waiting on and what you are waiting for...

Vs. 13-14 "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

- A. Our God is the God of miracles...

1. Remember that everyday...

2. He is speaking to us this promise.... Is anything too hard for the Lord?

VII. Prayer