



September 14 - When Expectations Unravel – Sarah Laughs

Have you ever had well-made plans only to see those plans stripped away? Perhaps it was vacation that involved a broken-down car...or a life plan that went up in smoke when you didn't get into the program you wanted to. What do we do when faced with impossible odds and our best made plans go awry? Join us this weekend as we let Sarah show us how to embrace God's showing up in the unraveling of plans!

Scripture:

Genesis 18:1-14 NLT

One day Abraham was sitting at the entrance to his tent during the hottest part of the day. ² He looked up and noticed three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he ran to meet them and welcomed them, bowing low to the ground. ³ "My lord," he said, "if it pleases you, stop here for a while. ⁴ Rest in the shade of this tree while water is brought to wash your feet. ⁵ And since you've honored your servant with this visit, let me prepare some food to refresh you before you continue on your journey." "All right," they said. "Do as you have said."

⁶ So Abraham ran back to the tent and said to Sarah, "Hurry! Get three large measures of your best flour, knead it into dough, and bake some bread." ⁷ Then Abraham ran out to the herd and chose a tender calf and gave it to his servant, who quickly prepared it. ⁸ When the food was ready, Abraham took some yogurt and milk and the roasted meat, and he served it to the men. As they ate, Abraham waited on them in the shade of the trees.

⁹ "Where is Sarah, your wife?" the visitors asked. "She's inside the tent," Abraham replied. ¹⁰ Then one of them said, "I will return to you about this time next year, and your wife, Sarah, will have a son!" Sarah was listening to this conversation from the tent. ¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were both very old by this time, and Sarah was long past the age of having children. ¹² So she laughed silently to herself and said, "How could a worn-out woman like me enjoy such pleasure, especially when my master—my husband—is also so old?" ¹³ Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, 'Can an old woman like me have a baby?' ¹⁴ Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Philippians 4:4-7 NLT

Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. ⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

Questions:

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in today's story of Sarah?
- What are the results of the unraveling?
- How is God working in the midst of the unraveling?
- What might you learn from this unraveling?

Reading for the Week:

- **Monday:** Psalm 34:17-19
- **Tuesday:** Isaiah 40:30-31
- **Wednesday:** James 4:14-15
- **Thursday:** Jeremiah 29:11-12
- **Friday:** Philippians 4:6-7