

“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?” Then the Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh? Why did she say, ‘Can an old woman like me have a baby?’” Genesis 18:12-13 NLT

## lectio // Genesis 18:1-14

A well known story where Sarah, Abraham's wife laughs at the impossible. I've heard and often reflected on the too easy Bible lesson, "how could she doubt and laugh at God's promise?" So a woman, a couple in their nineties, possibly over a hundred have YEARS of infertility issues. Maybe they have agonized over this for what, 70 years? Children are an incredible blessing, but back then it was also about your heritage, your lineage, who gets the name and the 401K? For them, I would imagine the pain never went away. So Sarah hears an extraordinary word, a word of hope and promise. And, upon hearing it comes an uncomfortable, i'll timed laugh. I've done the same thing dozens of times. I have laughed at the WRONG time and sustained glares from those around me. I wanted to lie too, "Me? laugh? No, not me." And here it is... "Sarah was afraid, so she denied it, saying, "I didn't laugh." But the Lord said, "No, you did laugh." Yesterday, I was listening to Kyle Popineau (Legacy Church) share with a panel about anxiety. A couple (Bill and Kristi Gaultier, soulshepherding.org) we're sharing on the digital livestream when Kristi said the phrase, "emotionally honest prayers." David recorded his gritty, raw, R-rated prayers in the Bible and no one shamed him for having a lack of faith. Of course he didn't exactly deny his emotional outbursts in front of God either. Sarah did. Out of fear? Fear of what? God? Maybe. Fear of MORE pressure to "buck-it-up" and believe again? Maybe. I don't know what she was thinking or feeling. I only know that I get so wound up in my head that it's hard to see anything, faith or otherwise. So should I hide a laugh, a tear or a scream from God? NEVER. It does no good to lie to ourselves or for sure, lie to the creator of all that exists. God sees our sin, our failures, fears and doubts - it does no good to deny or hide them. Can we ourselves permission to be honest? Can we give each other patience while we practice being honest?

Dad,

I would imagine that you want complete honesty in my conversations with you. You ALREADY know my thoughts, motives and actions. So, I'm guessing it is important for my own sake and sanity to own up to my own doubts and feelings - and speak them. Somewhere back in my past I remember someone telling me to never confess negativity and I think that was bad advice. It stemmed from a false premise that our words control, or make things happen. So confession became stifled and confusing with bad theology. So, if all sin truly is a lack of faith, I should be honest in admitting that I don't trust that you will provide, make a way or even give me what I want when I want it! That becomes a very real emotionally honest prayer, even if I laugh, cry, scream or throw a tantrum. So, I will press toward honesty with you. We'll work on honesty with other later, okay 😊?

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root