

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 18, 2017



THE LESSON Genesis 18:1-15

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he sat at the entrance of his tent in the day's heat. ²He looked up and suddenly saw three men standing near him. As soon as he saw them, he ran from his tent entrance to greet them and bowed deeply. ³He said, "Sirs, if you would be so kind, don't just pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought so you may wash your feet and refresh yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me offer you a little bread so you will feel stronger, and after that you may leave your servant and go on your way—since you have visited your servant."

They responded, "Fine. Do just as you have said."

⁶So Abraham hurried to Sarah at his tent and said, "Hurry! Knead three seahs of the finest flour and make some baked goods!" ⁷Abraham ran to the cattle, took a healthy young calf, and gave it to a young servant, who prepared it quickly. ⁸Then Abraham took butter, milk,

and the calf that had been prepared, put the food in front of them, and stood under the tree near them as they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where's your wife Sarah?"

And he said, "Right here in the tent."

¹⁰Then one of the men said, "I will definitely return to you about this time next year. Then your wife Sarah will have a son!"

Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were both very old. Sarah was no longer menstruating. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, thinking, "I'm no longer able to have children and my husband's old."

¹³The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Me give birth? At my age?' ¹⁴Is anything too difficult for the LORD? When I return to you about this time next year, Sarah will have a son."

¹⁵Sarah lied and said, "I didn't laugh," because she was frightened. But he said, "No, you laughed."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

¹I love the LORD because he hears my requests for mercy.

²I'll call out to him as long as I live, because he listens closely to me.

¹²What can I give back to the LORD for all the good things he has done for me?

¹³I'll lift up the cup of salvation. I'll call on the LORD's name.

¹⁴I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵The death of the LORD's faithful is a costly loss in his eyes.

¹⁶Oh yes, LORD, I am definitely your servant! I am your servant and the son of your female servant—you've freed me from my chains.

¹⁷So I'll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you, and I'll call on the LORD's name.

¹⁸I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹in the courtyards of the LORD's house, which is in the center of Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

THE EPISTLE Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been made righteous through his faithfulness, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²We have access by faith into this grace in which we stand through him, and we boast in the hope of God's glory. ³But not only that! We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, ⁴endurance produces character, and character produces hope. ⁵This hope doesn't put us to shame,

because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶While we were still weak, at the right moment, Christ died for ungodly people. ⁷It isn't often that someone will die for a righteous person, though maybe someone might dare to die for a good person. ⁸But God shows his love for us, because while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

THE GOSPEL Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)

³⁵Jesus traveled among all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, announcing the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The size of the harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. ³⁸Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest."

¹⁰¹He called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to throw them out and to heal every disease and every sickness. ²Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, who is called Peter; and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee; and John his brother; ³Philip; and Bartholomew; Thomas; and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus; and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean; and Judas, who betrayed Jesus.

⁵Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, "Don't go among the Gentiles or into a Samaritan city. ⁶Go instead to the lost sheep, the

people of Israel. ⁷As you go, make this announcement: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons. You received without having to pay. Therefore, give without demanding payment.

⁹Workers deserve to be fed, so don't gather gold or silver or copper coins for your money belts to take on your trips. ¹⁰Don't take a backpack for the road or two shirts or sandals or a walking stick. ¹¹Whatever city or village you go into, find somebody in it who is worthy and stay there until you go on your way. ¹²When you go into a house, say, 'Peace!' ¹³If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if the house isn't worthy, take back your blessing. ¹⁴If anyone refuses to welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet as you leave that house or city. ¹⁵I assure you that it will be more bearable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on Judgment Day than it will be for that city.

¹⁶"Look, I'm sending you as sheep

among wolves. Therefore, be wise as snakes and innocent as doves. ¹⁷Watch out for people—because they will hand you over to councils and they will beat you in their synagogues. ¹⁸They will haul you in front of governors and even kings because of me so that you may give your testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹Whenever they hand you over, don't worry about how to speak or what you will say, because what you can say will be given to you at that moment. ²⁰You aren't doing the talking, but the Spirit of my Father is doing the talking through you. ²¹Brothers and sisters will hand each other over to be executed. A father will turn his child in. Children will defy their parents and have them executed. ²²Everyone will hate you on account of my name. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved. ²³Whenever they harass you in one city, escape to the next, because I assure that you will not go through all the cities of Israel before the Human One comes.