

## SCRIPTURES READING – JUNE 18, 2017

### Genesis 18:1-19

**18** <sup>1-2</sup> GOD appeared to Abraham at the Oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent. It was the hottest part of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing. He ran from his tent to greet them and bowed before them.

<sup>3-5</sup> He said, "Master, if it please you, stop for a while with your servant. I'll get some water so you can wash your feet. Rest under this tree. I'll get some food to refresh you on your way, since your travels have brought you across my path."

They said, "Certainly. Go ahead."

<sup>6</sup> Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. He said, "Hurry. Get three cups of our best flour; knead it and make bread."

<sup>7-8</sup> Then Abraham ran to the cattle pen and picked out a nice plump calf and gave it to the servant who lost no time getting it ready. Then he got curds and milk, brought them with the calf that had been roasted, set the meal before the men, and stood there under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup> The men said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?"

He said, "In the tent."

<sup>10</sup> One of them said, "I'm coming back about this time next year. When I arrive, your wife Sarah will have a son." Sarah was listening at the tent opening, just behind the man.

<sup>11-12</sup> Abraham and Sarah were old by this time, very old. Sarah was far past the age for having babies. Sarah laughed within herself, "An old woman like me? Get pregnant? With this old man of a husband?"

<sup>13-14</sup> GOD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh saying, 'Me? Have a baby? An old woman like me?' Is anything too hard for GOD? I'll be back about this time next year and Sarah will have a baby."

<sup>15</sup> Sarah lied. She said, "I didn't laugh," because she was afraid. But he said, "Yes you did; you laughed."

<sup>16</sup>When the men got up to leave, they set off for Sodom. Abraham walked with them to say good-bye.

<sup>17-19</sup>Then GOD said, "Shall I keep back from Abraham what I'm about to do? Abraham is going to become a large and strong nation; all the nations of the world are going to find themselves blessed through him. Yes, I've settled on him as the one to train his children and future family to observe GOD's way of life, live kindly and generously and fairly, so that GOD can complete in Abraham what he promised him."

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### **Matthew 10:24-31**

**24**"A student should not outrank the teacher, nor should a laborer make more money than his boss.

**25** Rather, the student and teacher should be alike. Likewise, for a laborer and employer. Be content - pleased, even - when you, my students, my harvest hands, get the same treatment I get. If they call me cruel names, what can the workers expect?

**26** "Don't be intimidated. Eventually everything is going to be out in the open, and everyone will know how things really are.

**27** So don't hesitate to go public now.

**28** "Don't be bluffed into silence by the threats of bullies. There's nothing they can do to your soul, your core being. Save your fear for God, who holds your entire life - body and soul - in his hands.

**29** "What's the price of a pet canary? Some loose change, right? And God cares what happens to it even more than you do.

**30** He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail - even numbering the hairs on your head!

**31** So don't be intimidated by all this bully talk. You're worth more than a million canaries.

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