

There Is Enough Love To Go Around Outline

^{NRS} **Genesis 17:1** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

^{NRS} **Genesis 17:15** God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" ¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" ¹⁹ God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." ²² And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

1. Greg McDonald- circus, colleagues, Greg's indictment
2. Last week descent into hell- another question I get all the time, how should we feel about our friends who are part of different faith traditions, or no faith tradition? A touchy one. So we're quiet. But then we hear only the loud voices.
3. Loud voices make it sound like there's a choice. Faithful and wary. Or water down our faith and be welcoming. Like there's a shortage on love.
4. This makes sense- nearly everything in the world in short supply. But not love. But we're nervous about this- is this really true?

5. Abraham was- old, God speaks, then Abraham finally says enough. Laughs in God's face. Says, Ishmael is enough. No way God can do all of this- Ishmael is enough. Like God has to pick and choose.
6. God's response- I can love Isaac and I will. Covenant with him. AND I don't have to choose. I can love Ishmael at the same time, and I will. Make a great nation of him. And in case you're wondering what the connection is to our question about other faith traditions. Isaac- Christianity and Judaism. Ishmael- Islam. God knows there is enough love to go around. God can speak Hebrew on Friday, Arabic on Saturday, and Latin on Sunday. We're the ones who have a hard time translating.
7. Finish up with Greg- everything came out OK. "I just think when it comes to God- there is enough love for all."
8. Abraham couldn't believe God had all this love- he just couldn't believe it and laughed in God's face. Now we say God is love, we say it all the time- but I ask you this morning- do you really believe it? What would it look like if more of us did? What would it look like if a church really believed this? **Amen.**