

He Knows

by

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Thinking back on childhood and the silly antics of our past, how many times did we think we had gotten away with something only to realize, Daddy knows? So many times we would run around doing this and that under the impression that no one knows. The "I won't get caught" scenario begins to play in the back of the mind and many times, if one is sneaky enough, he would get away with the deed done. It has been said on numerous occasions by many, many adults, "if my dad had known what I had done he would still put me over his knee today." This in a sense is a tribute to the fathers who work diligently to instill a high standard of moral value in the lives of their children. On the other hand this also speaks of the moral decline that increases when children age into adulthood but their maturity is stuck somewhere in the teen-age years (or even younger in some cases). Paul said, "when I was a child I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things" (1Cor 13:11). The Christian has the realization that putting away the childish things is putting away the immaturity that goes with being a child. Part of the immaturity to which so many cling is trying to see just how close one can come to getting into trouble without getting caught.

Genesis 18 records the Lord telling Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a son. Verse 11 describes the couple as well stricken (Gen 17:24 depicts Abraham as 99 years of age) in years and Sarah having gone through the process of life that ended here NATURAL ability to have a child. Standing at the tent door to the Lord's back Sarah heard the reminder of the promise (Gen 12:1-3), verse 10, and her reaction is recorded thus: "Therefore Sarah laughed within herself (Emph. Mine), saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?" (Gen 18:12). The diligent Bible student will readily see that Sarah thought she was not heard as she laughed, and made this statement to herself, i.e. with the faculty of thought. So much so that when confronted by the Lord as to His ability to fulfill His own will, "Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid" (Gen 18:15), yet, The Lord knew "Nay; but thou didst laugh."

The thought that "I can get away with this, if I don't get caught" was one Sarah found out very quickly was, and is today, malignant. This is an activity that will only cause harm to the soul and increase ones ability to be as those in Jeremiah's day, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush" (Jer 6:15). In order to correct this problem the maturity must develop. The immaturity that would cause one to think they can get away with something goes along with the carnal desire of the pleasure of the flesh, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom 8:7). This enmity has only one end, "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God" (James 4:4). How does one get past this point of immaturity? Put on the whole armor of God (Eph 6:11) and strive to be like Ezra, "Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice. And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens" (Ezra 9:4-6).

The next time the thought crosses the mind, "I can do this and get away with it," think about Sarah. She laughed within herself, and spoke to herself. Yet, the Lord knew what she thought in her disbelief, and, He knows what we do, think, and desire. Those things that we have tried so diligently to hide, the skeletons that are buried in the closet will be known, "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil" (Ecc 12:14). One might be able to fool those around him, "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1Cor 2:11), but, "Be not deceived, God is not mocked" (Gal 6:7).