### 引言 INTRODUCTION

So far in our stories, God changed the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah, respectively. They would become parents of many descendants. God was about to fulfill His promise and give them a son. God was going to perform a miracle for a senior couple. I am far from young too. I begin to understand certain things that are related to aging. Let me share some jokes about older people with you. What is the best part of old age? Answer: it does not last very long. What do you call people who enjoy Mondays? Answer: retirees. When is the best time to start thinking about your retirement? Answer: before your boss does! Someone said: "Stop thinking that you are too old; you just become a classic." Last one: your secrets are safe with senior friends. It is because they can hardly remember them! Older people are more than likely wiser folks because they accumulate a wealth of life experience. In the case of Abraham and Sarah, they continued to grow in their faith as they walked with God. In Chapters 18, God reiterated His plan to bless the couple with a son. He shared the message with them at a meal. God sometimes conveys important information in special ways. Instead of speaking to Abraham in a vision, God appeared to him in person. We will unpack the passage by considering three words.

#### 解釋 EXPLANATION

## 1. 接待 Reception

The first word is reception. Abraham gave three strangers a warm reception. Let us deduce their identities from the passage. Abraham called the spokesperson of the group "lord/Lord." It is the same title "Adonai" meaning "God Almighty" that appears in the previous chapter. This Hebrew word can also be used for an earthly master. Abraham treated the traveler with honor. We have a better understanding of who this person was in verse 13. The author calls Him "the Lord" which is the usual Hebrew word for Jehovah. It was God showing up in a human form! Then 19:1 calls the other two persons angels. Three divine agents paid a visit. Abraham showed them great hospitality. Verse 2 says he ran toward them when he saw them. In the Bible times, it was rare for a respectable adult to run. Also, Abraham bowed before them. Jews only bow down to God in worship or bow to people of authority. Next, Abraham asked them to rest under the shade away from the sun while he offered them water to drink and to wash their feet, and food. Abraham followed a custom in the Middle East that is still valid today. A family has the obligation to receive even strangers to its home. Missionaries Gaylon and Mary Ann who now serve in that area once shared that they were invited by neighbors to their homes for meals. Those opportunities built friendship with non-Christians. Abraham went above and beyond the norm. He gave the best to the three visitors. Verses 6 to 8 tell us the food he prepared. Abraham asked Sarah to make bread with three seahs of flour. That is about 5 gallons (or 22 liters). It is enough to make three 14-inch pizzas. Besides, Abraham picked a tender calf from his flock. It will be like some Angus beef. But a whole cow for three persons is quite a lot! Moreover, Abraham brought some curds (think cottage cheese) and milk as side-dishes. There were generous amounts of food for the guests. Also notice that he asked Sarah to make the dough and he himself chose a

calf. He also set the food before the visitors and stood by their side like a waiter. A master of the house became a server, even though he had many servants to call upon. The author of Hebrews uses this incident to encourage his readers in 13:2 of the book: Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Traveling evangelists were common in those days. There was no mission organization to support them. They relied on believers for lodging, food and travel expenses. Those are tangible ways that show love to fellow believers. We may not meet angels today. But any host will treat guests the best if they were heavenly agents. Jesus tells us a similar principle in Matthew 25:40 – "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." The setting is the future judgment. The King in the story represents Jesus. He praises those who served believers with food, water and clothes. They received needy brothers into their home, and visited them when they were sick or imprisoned. Jesus will reward those people for even small things they did to ordinary people. He says: "Because you did it to me." The world only counts ground-breaking achievements. But the Lord does not focus on the size of our results. He looks at our hearts. We will serve people naturally if we care about their needs. It can even be simple things. We often have newcomers in our church. Remember the first time you came here? You wished someone would show you around. Treat new friends the same ways! Do not just tell them where the classrooms and restroom are. Lead them there! Show them where to get food, beverages and silverware. Better still, pour a cup of tea or a glass of water for them. Sit and eat with them and get to know them. Take their plates to the kitchen after they have finished. Families with little kids will be especially thankful for your help. Those matters do not require any special skills. The question remains: will you serve others as if you were serving Jesus?

# 2. 懷孕 Conception

The three divine guests got a warm reception from Abraham. They were actually on a mission. One goal was to tell the couple about Sarah's conception. She would have a baby. Look at verse 10: The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son."... God repeated the same information He told Abraham in the previous chapter. Just in case we forget the hurdle the couple faced, the author adds a note in verse 11: Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. Abraham was 99 and Sarah was 89. To say that they were advanced in years is redundant. It is like anyone knows that a car with 200,000 miles on it, a house built in 1960 and clothes that are worn for 20 years are old. "The way of women" refers to the monthly period. Menstruation is to pass out the tissue that does not receive a fertilized egg. The cycle will stop after menopause. It will be biologically impossible for a lady to have babies. The news about a coming son was hard to believe. But God reassured the couple in verse 14: "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." God is the Lord of impossibilities. He has all the power in the whole universe. There is nothing He cannot accomplish. End of discussion and case closed! Many years later an angel announced another miracle pregnancy to Mary, the earthly mother of Jesus. Angel Gabriel told Mary, who was engaged to Joseph, that she would conceive through the Holy Spirit. The baby was the Son of God. He came to succeed the throne of king David to eternity. Mary marveled at what she heard. She asked the angel: "How can it be?" Gabriel referred to the pregnancy of Elizebeth, Mary's relative. She was barren all her life, but now she was carrying a son. The angel concluded in Luke 1:37 that "For nothing will be impossible with God." Mary submitted to God's plan. She

was then pregnant without the help of a man. In Sarah's case, she and Abraham must do their part. They had to show their faith by taking actions. God still performs miracles even today. We may not expect something spectacular like Noah's flood or parting of the Red Sea. Every now and then we heard fascinating stories about people recovering from incurable diseases or surviving in a major disaster. God is still at work. Every believer experienced the same miracle when Jesus saved them. They received a new life in their dead souls. Wayward children returned to God's family. Habitual sinners abandoned their wicked ways and now walk in a righteous path. The Holy Spirit infuses power in us to bring about those radical changes. We must say yes to Jesus and let Him transform our lives. We work with God in the process. He can still do impossible things. I can think of the situation about my mom. She is a devout Buddhist all her life. She had no objection when I became a Christian. In her mind, all religions are good. I have been praying for her salvation for a long time. Will God save her? Humanly speaking, it can be as difficult as an old lady getting pregnant. But if God is willing, He can change her heart just like He changed ours. I am sure you know people who are non-believers. It may seem difficult for them to receive Jesus. Do not give up! Put your hope in God. Keep praying for them and find ways to share the gospel with them. Perhaps you know other people who claim to be Christians. However, they have walked away from the faith and even assume a sinful lifestyle. Continue to pray for them and show God's love to them. Ask God to bring those stray sheep back to His fold.

## 3. 欺騙 Deception

Abraham put together a friendly reception to the divine agents. God announced Sarah's conception. It was a great news to the couple. However, Sarah stumbled over her disbelief. She even reacted with deception when God confronted her. She overheard the conversation between God and her husband. Verse 12 tells us her response: So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" Sarah laughed to herself. Previously Abraham also laughed (same word in Hebrew) when God told him that Sarah would give birth to a son. Abraham mentioned age as a realistic barrier too. What was the difference between the two laughs? We said last time that Abraham laughed with joy. In comparison, Sarah laughed with contempt. That is why the Chinese Bible renders the word as "secret giggling." It is similar to the following situation. Suppose someone told you a friend who never did anything big in life just broke a world record. You scoffed: "That's impossible. Till pigs fly!" God did not rebuke Abraham when he laughed. But God condemned Sarah for her doubt in verse 13: The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?" God knew it even though Sarah was laughing in her heart behind the tent! It proves that the messenger was the all-knowing God. Next, He spoke to Sarah directly. Read verse 15: But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh." Sarah denied out of fear. Worse still, she committed a sin to cover her lack of faith. How can anyone hide anything from God? But Sarah defended herself by lying anyway. God was stern when He repeated the accusation: "You did laugh!" Unfortunately, dishonesty permeates in the family. Previously Abraham lied to Pharaoh that Sarah was his sister and not his wife. A few chapters later Abraham told the same lie to another king also out of fear. In both instances, God came to Abraham's rescue. The amazing thing is that Isaac, the future son of Abraham and Sarah, used the same lie because of the same selfish reason. Jacob, a descendant in the next generation, was well-known for his deception. He stole the first-born right from his twin brother and later cheated his uncle to get rich. Those stories verify a saying: apples do not fall too far from a tree. Like

father, like son! That sinful nature comes from the same source. Jesus said that Satan is the father of all lies. He spreads falsehood to cause chaos and destruction. However, Christians have a new Dad. We should reflect the truthfulness of the Heavenly Father. Paul says in Colossians 3:9-10 – 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Jesus gave us a new life when He saved us. We must choose to put on that new nature. It begins with a revolutionary change of our mindset. We are so used to lying in our fallen past. We lie when we try to protect ourselves. We feel ashamed of our mistakes. The first response reveals our true character. We act without thinking. Although we can save our necks and dodge responsibility, people will doubt our credibility when they find out that we lied. Lying may please some people but it will never please God. We can be truthful only by relying on the Holy Spirit. It takes a lot of courage to own up to our faults. However, admitting our mistakes is not a sign of weakness. It actually shows our inner strength. We accept our imperfection without excuse. However, we do not let errors define us. We learn our lesson and ask God for strength to correct them. Such humility earns people's trust and respect. We will have the courage to do what is right when we care more about truth than appearances – when we are more concerned with how people see God than how they see us and when we seek God's glory and not our own glamor.

### 結論 CONCLUSION

God sometimes conveys important information in special ways. He shared a message to Abraham at a meal. Abraham prepared the food and God presented the forecast. The man would become a father. Food can build relationships. A lady recalled a story about her grandfather. She just called him "pop." Pop was born into a family of 13 children in 1879. After both parents died, the kids were sent to various relatives. Pop stayed with an uncle, who sent him to the field to plant crops. Pop loved the job. The smell of the earth alone made him happy. Later Pop was engaged. He dreamed of buying his own farm. Money was tight and his future wife was getting impatient. Pop had no choice but to give up his dream. The couple moved to Chicago after they were married. Pop found a job making railroad cars. Some time later, World War II broke out. Food was scarce. By then Pop had retired. He knew exactly what to do. He started planting in vacant lots near his house. People passing by would stop and observe. Pop knew that they were not just curious. They were looking for food. Pop gladly shared his veggies with anyone – young and old, people of any skin color and even those who hardly spoke English. Pop passed away at age 93. His family knew that he would want a visitation. All his friends were gone. Who would show up? That evening one stranger came after another. There were over 200 people. They were all blessed by Pop's veggies. Even after 25 years, they could not forget his kindness. The man who wanted to become a farmer all his life had fulfilled his dream. Through the crops, Pop shared his love. Two thousand years after Abraham, Jesus shared a message to His disciples at a meal too. Jesus told them that He would make a new covenant with believers. He used bread to represent His body and a cup to symbolize His blood. All who receive Him by faith are accepted into God's family.

用餐中的信息 Message at a Meal 創世記 Genesis 18:1-15

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

到目前為止,在我們的故事中,神將亞伯蘭和撒萊的名字分別改為亞伯拉罕和撒拉。他們將會成為許多後裔的父母。神即將實現祂的應許,賜給他們一個兒子。祂將在這對年長夫婦身上施行神蹟。我自己也不再年輕,我逐漸體會一些與年老有關的事情。讓我和你分享一些關於長輩的笑話。什麼是年老的好處?答案是:它不會持續太久。有哪些人會喜歡星期一?答案是:退休人士。什麼時候是開始思考退休的最好時機?答案是:在你的老闆開始思考之前!有人說:「別覺得自己太老了;你只是變成一個經典人物而已。」最後一個笑話:你不必擔心年長的朋友會洩漏你的秘密,因為他們大概不記得!但是年長的人往往更有智慧,因為他們累積了豐富的人生經驗。以亞伯拉罕和撒拉為例,他們在與神同行的過程中,持續增長信心。在第 18 章中,神再次重申祂要賜給他們一個兒子的計劃。祂是在吃飯的時候告訴他們的。神有時會用特別的方式傳遞重要的信息。這次祂不是在異象中對亞伯拉罕說話,而是親自向他顯現。我們將透過思考三個詞語來探討這段經文。

### 解釋 EXPLANATION

# 1. 接待 Reception

第一個詞語是「接待」。亞伯拉罕熱情地接待了三位陌生人。讓我們從經文中推論他 們的身份。亞伯拉罕稱這三人中說話的那一位為「主」,這與上一章中出現的希伯來 詞「Adonai」相同,意思是「全能的神」。這個字也可以指地上的主人。亞伯拉罕是 以尊敬的態度來接待這位旅客。在第 13 節中,我們對這位貴賓的身份有了更清楚的 認識。作者稱祂為「耶和華」。這是神以人的樣式向亞伯拉罕顯現!然後, 19:1 稱另 外兩位旅客為「天使」。因此,有三位神聖的使者來訪。亞伯拉罕的表現非常好客。 第2節說,他一看見他們就跑過去。在聖經時代,有身分地位的成年人很少會奔跑。 此外,亞伯拉罕還俯伏在地向他們下拜。猶太人只在敬拜神時才下拜,或向有權柄的 人下拜。接下來,亞伯拉罕邀請他們在樹蔭下休息,並為他們提供水喝、洗腳、以及 食物。亞伯拉罕按照中東地區的傳統做事,那些習俗流傳到今天:一家之主有責任接 待即使是陌生人。宣教士 Gaylon 與 Mary Ann 目前在該地服事。他們曾分享過,鄰居 們邀請他們到家裡吃飯。這是和非信徒建立友誼的機會。相比之下,亞伯拉罕的接待 超出了一般的禮節。他給了三位客人最好的招待。第6到第8節記載了他準備的食 物。他叫撒拉用三細亞的麵粉做餅,大約是五加侖(22公升),足以做三個14吋的披 薩。此外,他還挑選了一隻嫩牛犢,類似今天的安格斯牛肉。但一整頭牛給三個人 吃, 實在太豐盛了! 他還準備了奶油和奶作配菜。總個來說, 亞伯拉罕準備了很多食 物來接待客人。值得注意的是,亞伯拉罕叫撒拉做餅,他自己挑選牛犢。他還親自把 食物拿到客人面前, 並站在旁邊像侍應生一樣招待他們。這位家主變成了僕人, 雖然

他有許多工人可以吩咐。希伯來書的作者在 13:2 中提到這件事,用來鼓勵讀者:不可 忘記用愛心接待客旅;因為曾有接待客旅的,不知不覺就接待了天使。在那個時代, 四處奔走傳福音的人很常見。他們沒有宣教機構的支持,只能依靠信徒供應住宿、食 物與旅費。這些幫助就是向弟兄姐妹表達愛的實際方式。我們今天可能不會遇見天 使,但任何人若知道客人是從天而來的,肯定會給他們最好的招待。耶穌在馬太福音 25:40 中也教導我們相似的原則:「王要回答說:『我實在告訴你們,這些事你們既做 在我這弟兄中一個最小的身上,就是做在我身上了。』」這段經文的背景是將來的審 判。故事中的王代表耶穌。祂稱讚那些供應食物、水、衣服給信徒的人。他們也接待 了有需要的人到家裡,並在他們生病或坐牢時去探探他們。儘管他們在一些小人物身 上做了微小的事情,耶穌會獎賞他們。祂說:「因為你們是做在我身上。」這個世界 只注意突破性的成就,但主並不在乎結果的大小,祂看重我們的內心。如果我們關心 別人的需要,就會自然地去服事他們,就算只是一些簡單的事情。我們教會經常有新 來的朋友。還記得你第一次來這裡的時候嗎?你是否希望有人帶你四處看看?那麼你 也可以用同樣的方式服事新朋友!不要只是告訴他們教室和洗手間在哪裡,你可以親 自帶他們去。你也可以指給他們看在哪裡可以拿到食物、飲料和餐具。更好的是,替 他們倒一杯茶或水,與他們一起坐下來吃飯,認識他們。飯後幫他們把碗盤拿到廚 房。有小孩的家庭會特別感謝你的幫忙。這些事情不需要什麼特別的技能。關鍵的問 題是:你是否願意像服事耶穌那樣去服事他人?

## 2. 懷孕 Conception

這三位神聖的使者受到了亞伯拉罕熱情的接待。他們其實是帶著任務而來的。其中一 個目的是要告訴亞伯拉罕夫婦:撒拉將會懷孕生子。請看第 10 節:三人中有一位 說:「到明年這時候,我必要回到你這裡;你的妻子撒拉必生一個兒子。」...。神再 次重申祂在上一章對亞伯拉罕說過的話。作者再次提醒我們這對夫婦所面對的困難, 第 11 節說明:亞伯拉罕和撒拉年紀老邁,撒拉的月經已斷絕了。當時亞伯拉罕 99 歲,撒拉89歲。說他們「年紀老邁」幾乎是多此一舉,就像我們知道一輛跑了二十 萬英里的車、一棟 1960 年蓋的房子,或穿了二十年的衣服已經很舊了。撒拉的月經 已經停止了。月經是身體排出沒有受精卵附著的子宮內膜。女性在更年期之後便會停 止月經。因此從生理的角度來看,撒拉是不可能有孩子的。撒拉將會懷孕生子的消 息,的確令人難以置信。但神在第14節再次堅定地對他們說:「耶和華豈有難成的事 嗎?到了日期,明年這時候,我必回到你這裡,撒拉必生一個兒子。」神是使不可能 變為可能的主。祂掌管宇宙萬有的大能,沒有任何事是祂做不到的。多年以後,另一 位天使也宣告了一個神蹟的懷孕。對象是馬利亞。馬利亞是耶穌在地上的母親。天使 加百列告訴馬利亞,她將藉著聖靈懷孕。當時馬利亞已經與約瑟訂了婚。那將要生下 來的孩子是神的兒子,祂要繼承大衛王的寶座直到永遠。馬利亞聽後十分驚訝,便問 天使:「怎能有這件事呢?」加百列提到她的親戚以利沙伯的懷孕情況。以利沙伯一 生不育,但如今卻懷了孕。天使在路加福音 1:37 說:「因為,出於神的話,沒有一句 不帶能力的。」於是馬利亞便順服神的計劃,她沒有與男人同房就懷了孕。至於撒 拉,她和亞伯拉罕仍然需要盡自己的責任。他們必須以行動來表現信心。神直到今天

仍然施行神蹟。我們不一定會看到像挪亞洪水或紅海分開那樣壯觀的情景。但我們常常會聽到一些奇妙的見證,例如有人從絕症中得痊癒,或在重大災難中神奇地生存下來。神仍然在動工。每一位信徒在得救時,其實都經歷了神蹟。他們死去的靈魂得到了新生命;迷失的孩子回到神的家中;過去陷在罪中的人悔改,選擇走回正路。聖靈將能力注入我們裡面,使我們能有如此徹底的改變。但我們必須對耶穌說「我願意」,讓祂來改變我們的生命。在這過程中,我們與神同工。祂能夠使不可能的事成為可能。我想到我母親的情況。她一生都是虔誠的佛教徒。當我成為基督徒時,她並沒有反對。對她而言,所有宗教都是好的。我一直為她的得救禱告。神會拯救她嗎?從人的角度看,這幾乎像是老太太懷孕一樣困難。但若是神願意,祂絕對能改變我母親的心,就像祂改變我們的心一樣。你肯定也認識一些還未信主的人。他們看起來很難接受耶穌。不要放棄!把希望放在神的身上,繼續為他們禱告,並尋找機會向他們傳福音。你可能也認識一些自稱是基督徒的人,但如今卻離開了信仰,甚至生活在罪中。你要為他們禱告,向他們表達神的愛。求神親自將這些迷失的羊帶回祂的羊圈中。

## 3. 欺騙 Deception

亞伯拉罕友善地接待三位神聖的使者。神宣告撒拉將要懷孕。這是一個大好的消息。 然而,撒拉卻不願意相信,她甚至在被神質問時表現出欺騙的反應。她偷聽了神與亞 伯拉罕之間的對話。第 12 節告訴我們她的反應:撒拉心裡暗笑,說:「我既已衰敗, 我主也老邁,豈能有這喜事呢?」撒拉是在心裡偷笑。在此之前,亞伯拉罕聽到撒拉 會生兒子的預告時也笑了(希伯來文是相同的字)。他也提到了年紀的問題,認為這 是一個現實的障礙。那麼,這兩次的笑有何不同?我們上週提到,亞伯拉罕的笑是出 於喜樂;而撒拉的笑則帶有藐視與懷疑。因此,中文聖經把撒拉的笑翻譯為「暗 笑」。這就像下面的情況:假設有人告訴你,有一位從來沒做過什麼大事的朋友打破 了一項世界紀錄,你會譏諷地說:「那是不可能的!除非太陽從西邊升起!」神並沒 有責備亞伯拉罕的笑,但祂卻指出撒拉的懷疑。第 13 節說:耶和華對亞伯拉罕說: 「撒拉為什麼暗笑,說:『我既已年老,果真能生養嗎?』雖然撒拉是在帳棚後面心 裡暗笑,神也完全知道!這證明那位使者是全知的神。接下來,神直接對撒拉說話。 請看第 15 節:撒拉就害怕,不承認,說:「我沒有笑。」那位說:「不然,你實在笑 了。」撒拉因為害怕而否認,更糟的是,她為了掩飾自己的不相信而說謊。人怎能在 神面前隱藏任何事呢?但撒拉仍試圖以謊言為自己辯護。神再次嚴厲地指出她的錯 誤:「你實在笑了!」可惜的是,不誠實的行為在這個家庭中延續。亞伯拉罕曾對法 老說謊,說撒拉是他的妹妹,而不是妻子。幾章之後,亞伯拉罕又因為害怕,對另一 位王說了同樣的謊言。在這兩次情況中,神都出手拯救了亞伯拉罕。更令人驚訝的 是,亞伯拉罕與撒拉的兒子以撒,將來又犯了同樣的罪,出於自私的理由說了同樣的 謊。再往下看,以撒的兒子雅各,更是有名的騙子。他欺騙了哥哥的長子名分,又用 手段欺騙舅舅以得到財富。這些故事證明英文的一句話:蘋果只會掉在蘋果樹的附 近。俗語也說:「有其父必有其子。」這種罪性是來自同一個根源。耶穌曾說,撒但 是說謊之人的父。他用謊言製造混亂與破壞。但基督徒有一位新的父親。我們應當反

映出天父的真誠。保羅在歌羅西書 3:9-10 說:9 不要彼此說謊;因你們已經脫去舊人和舊人的行為,10 穿上了新人。這新人在知識上漸漸更新,正如造他主的形像。耶穌救贖我們時賜給我們新生命。我們必須選擇活出這個新的性情。這要從心思意念的根本開始改變。我們習慣了活在墮落的老我之中。我們說謊,可能是因為我們對犯錯感到羞愧,只想要保護自己。我們的第一反應顯示出我們真正的品格,因為我們不經思索便表現出來。雖然說謊也許能暫時逃避責任,但當謊言被揭穿時,別人將會懷疑我們的可信度。說謊也許能取悅某些人,但是不能討神的喜悅。唯有倚靠聖靈,我們才能活出真誠的生命。承認錯誤需要極大的勇氣,但這並不代表軟弱,反而顯出我們內心的剛強。我們坦然面對自己的不完美,不為自己辯護。但我們也不讓錯誤定義我們的身份。相反,我們從錯誤中學習,並且求神賜力量來修正。這樣的謙卑能贏得別人的信任與尊重。我們勇敢地去做正確的事,因為我們看重事實,過於自己的面子;我們關心別人怎麼看神,過於別人怎麼看我們;我們尋求神的榮耀,而不是自己的光彩。

#### 結論 CONCLUSION

神有時會用特別的方式傳遞重要的信息。祂在用餐中向亞伯拉罕傳遞了一個信息。亞 伯拉罕準備了食物,而神則給了預告:這個人將成為父親。食物能建立關係。有一位 女十回憶起關於她祖父的故事。她只稱他為爺爺。爺爺出生於 1879 年,一個有 13 個 孩子的家庭。在父母都過世之後,所有孩子被分配到不同的親戚家中。爺爺被送到一 位叔叔家,那位叔叔派他去種田。爺爺非常喜歡這份工作,光是泥土的氣味就讓他感 到快樂。後來,爺爺和一個女孩訂婚。他夢想著能買一塊屬於自己的農地。但是他當 時的經濟很緊,他的未婚妻也漸漸失去耐性。爺爺逼不得已,只好放棄夢想。結婚 後,他們搬到了芝加哥。爺爺找到了一份製造火車車廂的工作。不久之後,第二次世 界大戰爆發,糧食非常短缺。在那時候爺爺已經退休,他完全知道自己該做什麼。他 開始在家附近的空地上種菜。路過的人常常停下來觀看,爺爺知道他們不只是好奇, 而是在找食物。爺爺樂於將蔬菜分享給任何人:不論他們的年齡、膚色,甚至是一些 幾乎不會說英語的人。爺爺活到 93 歲才離世。家人知道,他希望有人來看他最後一 面。但他所有的朋友早已過世,誰會來呢?那天晚上,一位又一位陌生人前來,總共 超過 200 人。他們都是曾經受到爺爺蔬菜恩惠的人。就算已經過了 25 年,他們仍然記 得他的仁慈與愛心。這位一生渴望成為農夫的男士,最終實現了夢想。他藉著蔬菜分 享了他的愛。在亞伯拉罕之後兩千年,耶穌也在用餐中向祂的門徒分享了一個信息。 耶穌告訴他們,祂將與信徒立一個新約。祂用餅象徵祂的身體,用杯象徵祂的寶血。 凡憑信心接受祂的人,都被接納為神的兒女,都能進入神的家。