

Is a Pretext always bad?

Usually coming on a pre-text is looked down upon as a form of trickery. One is expected to make his intentions clear when approaching someone otherwise the person may feel deceived and that his time was wasted.

The Talmud Yerushalmi tells us that God went through many loops to be able to speak with Sarah directly. It was inappropriate for Him to accost a woman directly so he approached Abraham with the intention that Sarah overheard. The announcement of a child was a pre-text to be able to be in communion with Sarah as God values the speech of righteous women.

<http://www.talmudyerushalmi.org/speech-of-righteous-women-sota-71/>