Hannah: Determined Devotion

Lesson Outline

• Do You Have A Desperate Situation?
  – 1 Samuel 1:1-2
• Do You Turn to the Lord?
  – 1 Samuel 1:10-16
• Do You Trust the Lord?
  – 1 Samuel 1:17-18
• Do You Honor the Lord?
  – 1 Samuel 1:27-2:2
Introduction

• Why is it difficult to be faced with constant reminders of things we wish we did not?
  – if I am constantly reminded, then I keep thinking about it
  – that’s why they play commercials and advertise repeatedly
  – that’s why your siblings teased you repeatedly about whatever
  – it is worse when family members do the constant reminding … just to get a rise out of us

• Today we look at someone who had that problem
  – she wished for a child
  – a family member repeatedly made fun of her over it

⇒ How do we deal with these desperate issues that can easily break our hearts?
Do You Have a Desperate Situation?

• Look for how Hannah felt when she went to the house of the Lord.

1 Samuel 1:1-2 (NIV)  There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. [2] He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. …

Do You Have a Desperate Situation?

• Look for how Hannah felt when she went to the house of the Lord.

… [6] And because the Lord had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. [7] This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.
Discussion Questions

• What facts do we learn about the two wives Hannah? Peninnah?

• What kinds of family conflicts are more common today?

• How can emotional despair cause physical distress?

Do You Turn to the Lord?

• Look for words and phrases which express Hannah’s emotions.

1 Samuel 1:10-16 (NIV) In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord. [11] And she made a vow, saying, "O Lord Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." …
Do You Turn to the Lord?

• Look for words and phrases which express Hannah’s emotions.

[12] As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. [13] Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk … [15] "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. [16] Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

Discussion Questions

• What emotions do you see expressed or demonstrated by Hannah?

• What was the momentous promise she made to God?

• If Hannah lived today, what might she have done to help solve her problem?

• Why is it more important to take our problems and requests to God?
Do You Trust the Lord?

- Look for ways in which God answered Hannah’s “911” prayer.

*1 Samuel 1:17-18 (NIV)  Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."  [18] She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast. … [20] So in the course of time Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."*

Discussion Questions

- What good things started to happen once Hannah began trusting the Lord?

- What kinds of things previously kept Hannah from trusting God? What kinds of things keep us from trusting God?

- How do we overcome those attitudes?
Do You Honor the Lord?

• Look for evidence that Hannah took her vow to God seriously.

1 Samuel 1:27-2:2 (NIV) I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. [28] So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there. [2:1] Then Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. [2] There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.”

Discussion Questions

• What phrases speak of…
  – how Hannah carried out her vow?
  – why Hannah carried out her vow?

• It would be very hard to give up a small child to the care of the people at the temple. Despite this, what feelings does Hannah express?
Discussion Questions

• What kinds of things has God given us we could give back to Him as an act of praise and worship and devotion?

Consider some promise you made to God at one time or another …

⇨ Look for ways in which you can actually carry out on that promise this week.

Application

• Look for ways this week to demonstrate your genuine devotion to God

• Practice releasing control of the various areas of your life to God this week

• Meditate this week on the part of Hannah’s hymn of praise that said *There is no one holy like the Lord; …; there is no Rock like our God.*