

For Such a Time As This – Great Women of Faith - Hannah

1 Samuel 1-; Hebrews 12:1-3

This month we are celebrating Women's Herstory Month in the midst of Lent. We are taking our direction from great women of faith with the theme - For Such a Time As This. Last week we started with Esther and the story of her fast before standing up to save her people from genocide. Our three points from her story is that (1) Lent is about hearing from God, (2) It is about Letting Go, and (3) It is about preparing for Bold Action. This week we lean into the story of Hannah.

Exegesis

Story of Hannah –

- Hannah is the first wife of Elkanah
- Her husband loves her and is said to favor her, BUT she lacks the one thing that is considered most important – A Male child
- Her sister wife, Penninah, had a few kids and she was a hater.
- One had the love, the other the status – whole other sermon there
- She is beside herself with sorrow and cries out to God from a place of pain

She follows the same pattern as Esther

- She talks to God
- She is willing to Let Go of the thing that she desires most
- She takes bold action

What Else Can We Glean from Hannah's Story –

1. Hannah kept it real with God – she didn't pretend to be over it. She was honest about how much of a source of pain it was.
2. She asked for the desire of her heart, but she also focused on God's plan – she bargained with God – which I always think is tricky. But Hannah does it in the way that is appropriate – she asked for what she wanted but also focused on God's bigger plan.
3. She followed through on her promise to God – This seems so obvious, but how many of us fall off once we get what we need. We are diligent in prayer when we need the thing but then when our blessing comes, we get janky about prayer again

Reflections Questions

1. Is there a trauma or sadness that is standing in the way of you walking in your purpose? Have you brought it before God and been able to keep it real?
2. As you think about what requests you are making from God, have you taken the time to discern whether it is simply your personal desire or connected to God's larger plan?
3. What is your track record on following through on your promises to God? If you have not followed through in the past, how can you commit to shift that dynamic as you move through this Lenten season?