



S E R M O N G U I D E

Managing The Meantime

1 Samuel 1:1-11, 19

INTRODUCTION

The distance between where we are and where we want to be is what I call “the meantime.” As you read this, do you find yourself waiting “in the meantime?” Are you content with where you are, or do you just long for the destination? Do not skip over these days, God wants you to find joy in the journey. And that truth is what we’re going to look into further in today’s message. Specifically we’re going to look at three things we need to learn while we’re in the meantime. Let’s dive in.

KEY POINTS

1. Stop Worrying

The first thing we must do while waiting is to stop worrying. In 1 Samuel 1, we see a woman who is childless and becomes very worried, wondering if she will ever have the baby her heart so desperately desires. On top of all this, she is teased for her childlessness by a rival wife, Peninnah, of her husband, Elkanah.

The text says the teasing got so bad that Hannah would cry and she would not eat. She became depressed. She was discouraged, and that happens when we allow the situation to overwhelm us, and when we allow what others are saying about us, to get to us emotionally. This is when the worry sets in.

Worry is like moving in a rocking chair thinking that by moving you are going somewhere, when in fact you are not. Worry is an internal obsession about stuff in our external world that you do not control, and in the process, it undermines your confidence and trust in God.

2. Keep Worshipping

When you spend your time worshipping, you do not have time to worry. Referring back to our story of Hannah, a woman who is childless in 1 Samuel 1, we see a woman who even though she is tired of worrying, she continues to worship. In the midst of all her distress, Hannah gets up and presents herself before the Lord. I need you to understand this; she’s crying, she’s not eating, she is worrying, but she has not stopped worshipping.

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What Hannah is saying is, “God if you give me a son, I will give him right back to you.” Hannah is waiting on her promise to come to pass, but in the meantime she keeps coming to God’s house, she continues praying to God, and she promises to give back to Him. Hannah is a great example of what we can do as we wait on our promise to come to pass.

God doesn’t want you to just worship Him after you have received your promise. Anyone can do that! Anyone can say thank you after they have been gifted with what they want. God wants your worship and praise before you have received it. This shows faith and trust that you believe He will do what He said He would do. As you wait in the meantime, stop worrying and start worshipping.

3. Continue Working

When Hannah kept worshipping, she discovered the missing key to her breakthrough. What she realized was that as important as it was for her to keep worshipping, she had to start working on what she was waiting for.

Verse 19 says, “They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her.” She was worshipping so that God would do His part, but realized in prayer that she had to start working to do her part. She learned that she still had a part to play if she wanted her dream of having a baby to come to pass.

Are you waiting on God? Is there a prayer you are praying, because only God can do what you need? It’s very wise you have given control to God and are allowing Him to take control. But this does not mean you are stuck on the sidelines. God will often challenge you and give you ways to grow as you wait for your blessing. Seek Him to find what you can do to work for what you are waiting for.

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No Limits with Pastor Delman

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What is something you're worrying about right now? How has worrying helped or hurt your current situation?
2. Have you ever intentionally chosen to worship in the midst of a waiting season? If so, what difference has it made? If not, what's keeping you from worshipping while you wait?
3. What is one way you can keep continue working toward what it is you're waiting for?
