

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

The Family Prayer

I Samuel 1:4-20

Slide 2:

1 Samuel 1:4–10 (ESV)

On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.

Slide 3:

1 Samuel 1:11–15 (ESV)

And she vowed a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.

Slide 4:

been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD.”

Slide 5:

- I. Why is Hannah so broken?
- II. How is Hannah healed?
- III. What can we learn from Hannah's healing?

Slide 6:

Hannah's situation:

"mara" = bitter in soul

"bakah" = scream in anguish

"rawam" = thunder

Slide 7:

Hannah is broken because she is barren

Two Common Responses:

- 1) Sympathetic
- 2) Confused/Unsympathetic

Slide 8:

Understanding Hannah's Pain

The importance of children in ancient civilizations

- * Economic
- * Protection/Defense
- * Security
- * Emotional

Slide 9:

Slide 10:
Hannah's Breakthrough
What Doesn't Work?

Slide 11:
Elkanah tries to "fill the void" in Hannah's heart

Slide 12:
Hannah refuses the deadly strategies for identity and she "rises."
She shifts her strategy

Slide 13:
Hannah sacrifices all of the cultural reasons to have a child:
No Economic benefit
No Protection benefit
No Security benefit
No Emotional benefit

Slide 14:
Hannah is healed before the child arrives!
"Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.
They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they
went back to their house at Ramah.
And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her."

Slide 15:
Our Takeaways
1) Our pain is most likely coming from misplaced treasure (The pain will be there whether you are "winning" or not)
2) We will be tempted to move our investment to an alternative counterfeit treasure (It tempts because it feels good to the one at the table offering, and it works temporarily)
3) We must go to God and ask Him to be our treasure so that the thing we can't ever lose is where our treasure is stored

Jeremiah 15:1 (ESV)

Then the LORD said to me, "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go!"

Slide 17:

God listens to His Son because

1) He really, really Loves him

2) He is really, really Just

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Have someone read 1 Samuel 1:4-20. Have you heard of this story before? If so, what were the lessons you remember? What do you see now in the text?

2. Hannah's distress over not being able to have children was because she was raised in a culture/time that gave her only that small area in which to find value.

What does our culture say we must do in order to find value? To BE valued?

3. We have more "tables" today that we can "play" than Hannah did when it comes to investment for value. What are the ways that we compensate for value, in our own lives, or in the lives of others?

How has the church agreed with the culture when it comes to finding/receiving value?

4. Do you see the tension between "letting someone hit bottom" in order to find God, and being the "hands and feet" of Jesus when people suffer? Can you talk about this?

5. How is Samuel a Type of Christ? How is Hannah a representation of God?

Share the ways they are similar, and the ways they fall short.

(Is this why God chooses to share some of these stories in His Word?)