

Pastor John Miller, 06-28-2026, COTR Texarkana

Title: What Would I Do If...I Was Hannah?

Purpose: Help people deal with disappointment with God's plan and timing and provoke them to have unshakable faith, be persistent in prayer and obedient to God.

Truth for Today: When we're experiencing disappointment with God, we need to have unshakable faith, be persistent in prayer and obedient to God.

Topic: Hannah, Samuel, Disappointment, Persistence, Vow, Obedience, Reward, God's Will

Text: Acts 1: 6-8, 1 Samuel chapters 1-3

Series title: What Would I Do If...

Series purp.: Provoke people to follow God's will, God's Word and the Holy Spirit above all else

## What Would I Do If...I Was Hannah?

### I. Introduction

- A. Today we'll continue the series and title it, "What Would I Do If...I Was Hannah? We'll see how God's plan and timing for her to have a baby was different than hers. God saw the end from the beginning but she was trapped in the now. But Despite deep disappointment, she chose to have unshakable faith, be persistent in prayer and be obedient to God.

### II. God is working behind the scenes, even when we can't see it.

- A. The leaders of Israel were sinful and led the nation to turn away from the Lord. [1 Samuel 2:12 (ESV) Now the sons of Eli<sup>1</sup> (*priest and judge at Shiloh*) were worthless men (*NLT scoundrels: a cheater or deceiver who lacks high moral standards*). **They did not know the LORD** (NLT) *they had no respect for the LORD*<sup>13</sup> or for their duties as **priests**.<sup>17</sup> So the sin of these young men was very serious in the Lord's sight...<sup>22</sup> Now Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing...He knew...that his sons were seducing the young women who assisted at...the Tabernacle. <sup>23</sup> Eli said to them, "I have been hearing reports...about the wicked things you are doing. **Why do you keep sinning?** <sup>24</sup> You must stop, my sons...<sup>25</sup>...But **Eli's sons wouldn't listen** to their father...] And Eli didn't stop them and his family not yet born suffered for his failure to act. God held Eli accountable.

1. Where was God? Israel was God's chosen people to be in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Now, the people sadly would follow their leaders and turn their hearts away from God. God had a plan to get the nation back on track and He needed a spiritual leader to do it. He chose Hannah to be a part of that plan.

### III. Hannah's disappointment was overcome by faith, prayer, and obedience.

- A. [1 Sam. 1:3–28 (NLT) Each year Elkanah would travel to Shiloh to worship...the LORD...<sup>4</sup> On the days Elkanah presented his sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to Peninnah and each of her children. <sup>5</sup> And though he loved Hannah, he would give her only one choice portion because **the LORD had given her no children** (*ESV the Lord had closed her womb*) <sup>6</sup> So Peninnah would...make fun of her because the **LORD had kept her from having children**. <sup>7</sup> Year after year...Peninnah would taunt Hannah...Each time, Hannah would be **reduced to tears** and would not even eat.] At times, we may not know why God doesn't do what we desire or need. Like us, she

had desires that led to disappointment, but God had another plan and Hannah was part of that plan. In situations like this, we must trust God despite how we feel.

- B. **Vs. 9** Once after a sacrificial meal...Hannah got up and went to pray...<sup>10</sup> Hannah was in **deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD**. <sup>11</sup> And she made this **vow**: “O LORD...if you...answer my prayer and **give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime...**]
1. Hannah’s feelings: Disappointment, confusion, anger, hurting, bitter. She probably asked, why doesn’t God answer my prayer and give me what I want and what was promised in the OT. Doesn’t He care? Is He mad at me? Is it worth it to keep on following Him?
  2. Hannah didn’t let feelings extinguish her faith:
    - a. The whole narrative revolves around the (1) vow. Def: vow: a solemn promise to God.<sup>2</sup> How did she know to make this vow to God? I believe she knew God was asking it of her for a purpose bigger than her happiness. // me Navy, Ca.
    - b. (2) Persistence in prayer: no matter how she felt she didn’t stop praying until the answer came. // us P.U.S.H.
  3. Sometimes it’s hard to follow Jesus. [**Mt. 16:24 (NLT)** Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must **give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.**] Sometimes being a follower of Jesus demands sacrifice, but later it will be worth it. Earth isn’t our home, heaven is.
- C. [**Vs. 20**...in due time **she gave birth to a son** (*NKJV it came to pass in the process of time*). She named him Samuel...<sup>24</sup> When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. ...<sup>25</sup>...they brought the boy to Eli... <sup>27</sup> I asked the LORD to give me this boy, and he has granted my request. <sup>28</sup> **Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life.**”] Samuel was God’s plan to turn the nation back to Him. Though Hannah’s suffering seems unfair, almost uncaring of God, He didn’t forget her sacrifice and rewarded her. **Hannah’s obedience would one day change a nation.** Samuel became a great prophet and turned the nation back to God.

#### IV. Conclusion: God didn’t forget Hannah’s sacrifice. He rewarded her

- A. [**1 Sam. 2:21 (NLT)** And **the Lord blessed Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters.** Meanwhile, **Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.**]
1. God rewarded Hannah in 2 ways: (1) In His timing, God answered Hannah’s prayer and heart’s desire for 5 children. (2) Her 1<sup>st</sup> son became a prophet and judge who would turn the nation of Israel back to God.
  2. Like us sometimes, Hannah didn’t understand God’s plan, but she responded with unshakable faith, persistent prayer and obedience. E.g. we should, too.

#### V. Response

- A. Prayer: Do you feel like Hannah? Do you struggle to hold on to faith while waiting?
- B. Souls: Close with a question. Do you have a close, personal relationship with God today? You can. Are you 100% sure you’ll go to heaven when you die. You can be.
- (1) God loves us, (2) Problem sin, (3) Solution cross, (4) Decision believe and follow.

VI. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. The priest of Shiloh in [First Samuel 1:1–4:22](#). A judge of Israel for 40 years and the mentor of the prophet Samuel. Father of the corrupt priests Hophni and Phinehas. Logos Factbook
2. Webster, N. (2006). In [Noah Webster's first edition of An American dictionary of the English language](#). Foundation for American Christian Education.

VII. Supplemental material

- A. After res. [Acts 1:6–8 (NLT) So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “**Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?**”<sup>7</sup> He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And **you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere...**] Jesus had a different agenda than His followers. What He wanted was different from what they wanted. // us Sometimes God’s plans are different than our desires.
- B. 1 Samuel 3:19–21 (NLT) As Samuel grew up, the Lord was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable.<sup>20</sup> And all Israel, from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the Lord.<sup>21</sup> The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.