

...When It's Hard Being A Woman

Where Is God? | Part 4 | Pastor Vince DiPaola

Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled..."

1 Samuel 1:15b, NIV

God At Work When Women Need It Most

(Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:1-28)

I. WHEN IT'S HARD BEING A WOMAN

Elkanah had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.. And because the Lord had closed her womb, her rival (Peninnah) kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 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. Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"... In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much..

1 Samuel 1:2, 6-8, 10a NIV

The Three Challenges Hannah Faced

1. EMOTIONAL PAIN from life's circumstances.

2. RELATIONAL HURT caused by difficult relationships.

3. PERSONAL STRUGGLES caused by self-inadequacy.

II. FINDING GOD WHEN LIFE GETS HARD

How Hannah Found God At Work In Her Life

1. SEEK GOD'S WILL and remember His goodness to you.

Once they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up...in bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the Lord. 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."

1 Samuel 1:9-11, NIV

Eli [the priest] answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." 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**.

1 Samuel 1:17-18, NIV

2. SOAK IN GOD'S LOVE and don't give up on Him.

Early the next morning they arose and worshipped before the Lord and then went back to their home in Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, **and the Lord remembered her**. 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."

1 Samuel 1:19-20, NIV

3. SERVE GOD'S PLAN and find your identity in Him.

"I asked the Lord to give me this boy, and **he has granted my request**. Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life." And they worshipped the Lord there.

1 Samuel 1:27-28, NLT

Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done.

Proverbs 31:30-31, NLT

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