

At the Scent of Rain

November 18, 2018 | WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

The Woman Who Should Have Given Up

- Three weeks ago: “It isn’t useless. Do not give up.”
- Last week: the poverty mindset is the fear that you won’t have enough. Ever.
- Our passage today introduces us to a woman who couldn’t have been blamed had she thought it was useless, who had every right to a poverty mindset
- 1 Samuel 1:4-20

The Woman Who Should Have Given Up

- Eli's reply to her has power disproportionate to the words he speaks
- "Go in peace. May God do what you have asked." [v. 17]
- This is a generic pastoral pronouncement and it's hard to see where it would have any real impact
- Yet God takes the banal and transforms it into blessing: "Oh, thank you, sir!" she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad." [v. 18]

The Scent of Rain

- **Job 14:8-9** NLT

“Though its roots have grown old in the earth and its stump decays, at the scent of water it will bud and sprout again like a new seedling.”

- The scent of rain comes to those who are dead, dry, dying – a mere stump, a gnarled fist of brittle roots
- So it comes to Hannah, dead in the womb, dead in heart, dead in her hope

The Scent of Rain

- The scent of rain can come in the unlikeliest times and from the unlikeliest people
- That the scent of rain would spring from Eli and fall upon Hannah's dry spirit is improbable, given that his first instinct is to judge her, not care for her
- Eli doesn't apologize or pray with her; instead he offers a religious cliché the equivalent of "Let go and let God! Blessings! Hope it works out!"

The Scent of Rain

- Sometimes the scent of rain comes at the unlikeliest time
- Consider Hannah. Her best days are long past, and yet this is when God whispers the word of His promise to her heart: “Though the stump be dry, the branch which shall spring from it shall be more excellent than all the forests.”

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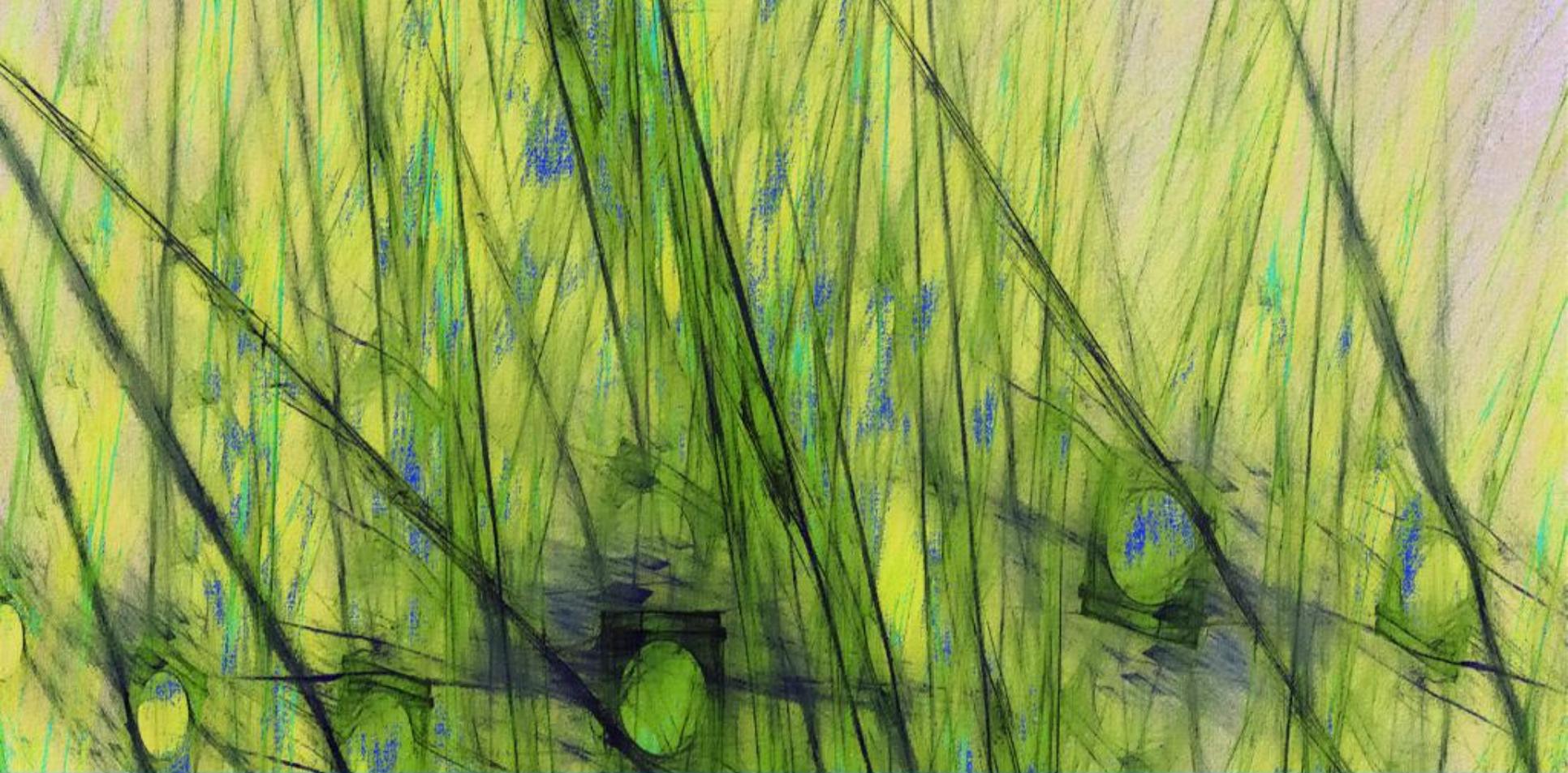
- Takeaway #1: No matter how long we've been stranded in the wastelands, it's not too late for us
- The scent of rain is not given to those who are big, flashy, or impressive in any worldly way, to uber-spiritual hotshots who've earned it
- The scent of rain comes to those who need it

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- Takeaway #2: we are to be carriers of the rain
- And at the scent of rain, what's dead will come to life and others will be released, renewed
- It's why some will respond to us — *they can smell the rain!*



*“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness
can never extinguish it.” – John 1:5 NLT*



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