



Part 10: Meeting God in the Low

May 27 & 28, 2017

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1 Samuel 1

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. ² He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

Let's answer the polygamy question:

Polygamy was never a part of God's plan

There is no biblical record of a "happy" polygamist family

God's plan was always monogamy (Genesis 2:23-24)

³ Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. ⁴ Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. ⁶ Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. ⁷ 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.

Hannah experienced the low moments of:

Infertility (verse 5)

An antagonistic relationship (verses 6-7)

Unanswered prayer (verse 7)

**The low moments of Hannah's life did not define her,
but they did refine her.**

In the middle of a long, low season, Hannah presses into God while:

Being present

This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord... (verse 7)

Being honest

¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on 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..."

Being persistent

¹² As she kept on praying to the Lord...

Being misunderstood

Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."

¹⁵ "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord."

Being expectant

¹⁸ 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.

Being grateful

²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him.

²⁸ So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

Being faithful in her relationship with God, knowing that he was being faithful in his relationship with her. (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

The Key to Living Through Lows

Praying Hannah's prayer in or before the low moments of life.

Next Week

Next weekend we're bringing back **"Ask Me Anything!"** Grant will be taking questions via text message and answering them real-time in each service. Have a question? Text it to **360-358-2235**.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What are your plans for the long weekend? How will you honor those who paid the ultimate price for your freedom?
- 2) Hannah experienced the lows of infertility, an antagonistic relationship and unanswered prayer. What has been your greatest low?
- 3) Pastor Frank has a saying that I love: we are human beings, not human doings. Talk through the "being" statements in the outline. Which one speaks to you? What is God saying?
- 4) Read Hannah's prayer of hope in 1 Samuel 2. How has God lived out that prayer in your life?
- 5) Being proactive with praise is difficult but essential in living through low seasons. How can you praise God in the storm right now?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?