

## Sermon Notes-May 10, 2020

### Prayer Under Adversity

May is special for Catherine and me

1 Samuel 1 – the situation

- Period of the Judges
- A dysfunctional family
- Hannah (her name means “grace”)
  - Doesn’t turn her back on God
  - Lives with taunts from Peninnah (her name means “jewel”)
  - Cries out to God, unlike Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel
  - Her isolation is at its greatest because “the Lord had closed her womb” (1 Samuel 1:6)

Hannah teaches us to pray in times of adversity

Hannah prays with complete honesty

- 1 Samuel 1:10, 15-16
- “Who a person is in their private prayers is who they truly are”
- Psalm 139:23-24
- Prayer as lament
  - Peninnah’s provocation in 1 Samuel 1:6 is the same as Hannah’s grief in 1 Samuel 1:16
  - Hannah’s reaction to Peninnah in 1 Samuel 1:6 is the same as Hannah’s description of God in 1 Samuel 2:10
  - Unfiltered prayer
  - Prayer changes us before it moves God
  - 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Hannah prays with desperate persistence

- Prayer never gives up and never lets go
  - Luke 18:1-8
  - Story of Roger Simms
  - God keeps his word

Hannah prays with glorious gratitude

- Hannah’s behaviour changes and her trust is expressed – 1 Samuel 1:18
- ASIDE: the true goal of parenthood is to enable children to serve the Lord
- Hannah is the first person in the Bible to address God as “Lord of Hosts” (1 Samuel 1:10)
  - Hannah can pray with glorious gratitude because she lets God be God
  - Hannah can pray with glorious gratitude because her prayer never limits God or reduces God to be her servant

- Hannah “sees” the Gospel – 1 Samuel 2:6

Story of the man with the oranges who came to faith on a cruise because he discovered that God answers prayer