# Standing Firm When Others Mock

With Pastor Brenda Vogel

Week 3

**Big Idea:** Hannah faced ridicule but refused to let it shake her faith or hope.

**Main Scriptures:**

1 Samuel 1:4-7
1 Samuel 1:13-16
Romans 8:1

**Key Point:** Standing strong means choosing God's truth over the noise and insults of others.

**Bottom Line:** God's voice is louder than the world's insults.

**Application:** How can you remind yourself to focus on God's truth when others try to tear you down?

**Introduction:**

People may speak hurtful words over our lives, but we don't have to let their voices define us. The real question is: **Whose voice will have the final word in our lives?**

**1 Samuel 1:4–7** 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.

Peninnah knew exactly where Hannah hurt. And that is exactly where she poked.

Now I'm not going to point out for two long, that perhaps having two wives could have been part of the problem here. The whole sister wives thing never seems to be a great idea! They are both competing to get their husbands attention!

Year after year. She provoked her. She mocked her. She reminded Hannah of what she didn't have!

And some of us have a Peninnah voice in our lives!

- Maybe it is a person.
- Maybe it is social media.
- Maybe it is your past.
- Maybe it is your own internal voice.

But it keeps reminding you: "You're not enough."

**1 Samuel 1:13–16** 13 Hannah was praying silently, and though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" 15 "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord. 16 Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment."

So now, if dealing with Peninnah wasn't enough, now she has the priest giving her a hard time!

Hannah goes to church. She is praying. And the priest thinks she is drunk.

Can we admit that sometimes church people get it wrong too?

- Sometimes people misunderstand your heart.
- Sometimes people make assumptions. They twist what you say, instead of hearing your heart.
- Sometimes people judge a chapter without knowing the whole story.

She refused to allow Eli's misunderstanding to define her.

She knew why she was there.

She knew who she was talking to! And she kept going!

**1. Standing strong means choosing God's truth over the noise and insults of others.**

**2. The loudest voice in your life will eventually become the most influential voice in your life.**

So whose voice are you turning up?

Because you cannot always stop people from talking. The more you get into leadership the more people will talk.

But you can decide who gets the microphone.

**3. God's voice is louder than the world's insults.**

**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

- What were some of the voices or words that tried to define you?

- Did you ever start believing what people said about you?
- How did those words affect your confidence or your relationship with God?
- Was there a moment when you realized you had to stop living according to other people's opinions?
- What truth from God helped replace the lie?
- How do you handle criticism differently today?
- How do you know which voices to listen to and which ones to ignore?
- What would you say to somebody who feels like the words of others are crushing them right now?

**WRAP-UP**

Don't let the wounds and words of your past define you; test every voice against Scripture and let God's unchanging Word determine who you are.

**4. Change the voice you turn up.**

**5. You can decide they don't get the final word.**

When you hear the voice saying, "I'm unwanted," remind yourself, "I am chosen."

When you hear, "I'm not enough," remind yourself, "Jesus is enough."

And that's where the Gospel changes everything. I don't have to be enough—because Jesus is enough.

**Romans 8:1** "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

The voices of our past, our failures, and our critics do not define us—**Jesus does.** When we measure every voice against God's Word, we remember that in Christ we are **forgiven, chosen, and redeemed.**

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