

## Seoul Grace Community

### David: Lessons for a Wounded Life

1 Samuel 1:1-20, 2:2-3, 9-10

April 17, 2016

#### 1. Introduction

- a. We will study the life of David because his life produced the psalms which are essentially prayers of and for healing in what everyday life brings us (Loss, pain, confusion, uncertainty, joy, anger, fear, abandonment, etc.)
- b. The purpose of the series is to see how to make it through everyday life and how our prayers should be.
- c. We begin David's life by looking into the background and the characters in his life—Hannah, Samuel, Saul, Nathan, Jonathan
- d. Hannah's prayer: She radically changed her life through prayer.
- e. She's desperate and looked down upon—yet her prayer changes everything because it points to someone who will rescue her in her greatness time of need

#### 2. Her Sadness

- a. Her deep despair stems from the fact that she was unable to have a baby and because of this she is in deep anguish. (v. 7, 8)—she couldn't even eat!
- b. Why is she unhappy?
  - i. She is in a polygamist marriage which is imbalanced in its love, attention and affection.
    1. Almost everywhere you see this happening in the Bible, everyone is miserable. (1 Kings 11: "Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart.") (Genesis 28: 9 "Esau went to Ishmael and took as his wife, besides the wives he had, Mahalath the daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son, the sister of Nebaioth."-----ESAU does this to get back at his dad for misusing the blessing!).
    2. We can see her marriage was not complete—she was deeply unsatisfied
  - ii. But more specifically she is not living up to the cultural ideal.
    1. She couldn't have children. (1 Samuel 1:7, she was provoked and teased by Peninnah)
    2. The more children you had the more economic opportunity you would have.
    3. Children also meant more security—a retirement plan.
    4. Children represented military and political strength growth numbers.
    5. Even though this is an ancient ideal we still know what it feels like to have a culture put pressure on you.
    6. Our culture puts pressure on women (and men) for particular accomplishments, milestones, achievements.
    7. Every culture has a norm and if you aren't living up to it you'll feel the pressure.
    8. Hannah didn't fit into the cultural ideal and she is feeling the pain of exclusion because of this
- c. She's wounded, hurt and in pain. She desperately needs healing.

#### 3. Her Song

- a. She has two "voices" coming at her to try and tell her how she ought to be
  - i. Peninnah's voice of pressure: Essentially, "You're not good enough" "You're defective as a wife"
  - ii. And her husband's voice. Shouldn't my love be more important? (v. 8)
    1. He obviously loves Hannah more.
    2. He is trying to console her by doling out more affection on her
  - iii. Hannah doesn't answer any of these voices.
  - iv. This means she's not giving in or giving up. She's not resigning to the affirmations of her husband nor the criticisms of her rival/cultural standards
  - v. She doesn't build her life on the criticisms of others nor on the dependence of the love of her husband
- b. Then what did she actually do? She stood up. (v. 9)
  - i. This seems like nothing to us. But it was important then.
  - ii. She put her foot down. It's an idiom. She took charge.
  - iii. She stopped being passive and decided to take action. She said "no more."
  - iv. She was going to do something radical. And she prays.
  - v. It appears as if she's striking a bargain with God. Promising to send him into the ministry.

1. But she had peace even before the fulfillment (verse 18 which we didn't read). It wasn't a bargain.
  - a. She was no longer downcast. She hadn't had the results yet but she is at peace.
2. And by making her son a Nazarite she would have lost out of the emotional richness of having a child in the first place.
  - a. She wouldn't have enjoyed all that having a kid would have because he was given over to the ministry.
  - b. All her life she wanted to have a child for herself. But now I want to have a child for you.
  - c. She was redirecting her desire for a child back to God.
- vi. And in her prayer it leads to a beautiful song—one of the most memorable praise songs/prayers of all time!! Because she's finally free from the burden of public perception and accomplishment
  1. She says her horn is lifted (1 Samuel 2:1)
  2. The horn being lifted is a Biblical reference to mean coming from low circumstances into a changed and higher circumstance—to be elevated from a lowly position to a higher, more favorable position
  3. Culture looked down on her and judged her and yet she was free from the judgement
  4. She didn't meet the expectations of those around her nor of herself and yet she was free!
- c. How does she get this amazing sense of freedom? This ability to say that her horn has been lifted?

#### 4. Her Savior

- a. After she receives her son Samuel. And she sings a song but it's a song not about her son---it's about someone else.
- b. She sees a pattern and a person.
  - i. What's the pattern? 6-7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.
    1. Like the sermon on the mount when Jesus speaks, this is a reversal of the cultural norms.
    2. The pattern is that God works through weakness not strength. Through poverty not wealth. Through sufferings not comfort. That's the pattern of how God works!
  - ii. There's also a person.
    1. He will exalt the horn of his anointed. His messiah.
    2. There was no king at the time in Israel. So she must be singing about a future King/Messiah
    3. There was someone else who would come from a lowly place and be elevated
    4. There is another woman in lowly circumstances who became pregnant later—Mary and she too sings about it in a way very similar to Hannah's song (Luke 1:46-55)
    5. She bases her song on Hannah's song.
      - a. Jesus is the ultimate climax of the pattern of God's salvation plan.
      - b. Jesus was the one born hungry and poor.
      - c. He was exalted by being put down.
      - d. He came in weakness to show true strength.
    6. Hannah had hope because she looked to one who would become weak. Like Hannah.
      - a. Answer to loneliness? Jesus who was left alone to die
      - b. Answer to cultural oppression/expectations? Jesus who was the outcast.
      - c. Don't feel like you're living up to the standards of others or yourself? It was him, the King, who was led out of the city and called a false messiah
    7. He already took it for you
      - a. His "horn" was lifted but through his weakness and ultimately his death for you!
      - b. Philippians 2: 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name

#### 5. Conclusion—How do you apply this?

- a. See how God works in Hannah—deep sorrow because she hadn't lived up to the expectations around her, or even her own expectations—but even deeper grace that God would indeed give her a son who would anoint the king and from that anointing came the ultimate anointing of Jesus
- b. This is the ultimate story of hope in the midst of despair—the gospel, that though we are weak he became weak that we might endure the “Hannah” periods of our lives