

Foundations of a Legacy

1 Samuel 1-2

Setting:

- coming to the last of the Judges for nation
- Samuel – last judge, anoints first two kings
- time of spiritual drift for the chosen of God
 - difficulty with tribe of Benjamin
 - Judges 21:25 ***“In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit”***

- Problems with Priests

- Eli the priest – son's Hophni and Phinehas

- *“Eli’s sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD. Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. But even before the fat was burned, the priest’s servant would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, “Give the priest some meat to roast; he won’t accept boiled meat from you, but only raw.” If the person said to him, “Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want,” the servant would answer, “No, hand it over now; if you don’t, I’ll take it by force.” This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD’s sight, for they were treating the LORD’s offering with contempt.”*

- 1 Sam. 2:22-25 *“Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the LORD’s people is not good. If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the LORD, who will intercede for them?” His sons, however, did not listen to their father’s rebuke, for it was the LORD’s will to put them to death.”*

- God promises to remove the family from this role 2:27-36
- not a high point in the history for the priests

Family – Faithful and Dysfunctional

- 1 Sam1:1-8 *“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. 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. ⁸ Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?”*

- note year after year – faithful in going to sacrifice unto & worship God

- don't miss the difficulty between the two women

- Hannah was a favorite – given double, cared for

- Peninnah – had children, was mean to Hannah, clearly cruel especially at time of worship – till Hannah would weep and not eat

- Elkanah – didn't get it, comfort was to remind wife of what His love should mean to her

*From this family comes one used mightily of God.

Hannah's story shows some principles that are foundational in leaving a legacy – being in a spot for God to use us.

1. Knew Where to Take Her Pain

- 1 Sam 1:9-15 “ Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD’s house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. 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, and no razor will ever be used on his head.” As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, “How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.” “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. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief Eli answered, “Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.” 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”

- Hannah goes to God in prayer
 - honest about her pain & desire
 - filled with emotion and honesty
 - requesting of God his care – not demanding ease
- Encounter with Eli
 - allowing others into the deep pain
 - accepting their care and concern

2. Hannah Trusted God with The Outcome

- *Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the LORD and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her.²⁰ So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the LORD for him."²¹ When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the LORD and to fulfill his vow,²² Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the LORD, and he will live there always."²³ "Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the LORD make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.²⁴ After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.²⁵ When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli,²⁶ and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD.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.*

- after hearing Eli's words she left trusting God
- no longer downcast – continued on in faith
- arrival of Samuel – treasured as God's faithfulness
- built into his life for a short time – never wavering from her promise to present him for service to the Lord
- clear with Eli – this is God's doing, belongs to Him
- note – Eli has not been the greatest Dad in the world
 - atmosphere at temple not exactly ideal
 - influence of Hophni & Phinehas not desirable
- trusting God with outcome – Hannah presents Samuel, leaves him there to serve

3. Hannah Knew Who God Was

- 1 Sam 2:1-11 *“¹ Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. ² “There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. ³ “Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance, for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed. ⁴ “The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. ⁵ Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry are hungry no more. She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away. ⁶ “The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. ⁷ The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. “For the foundations of the earth are the LORD’s; on them he has set the world. ⁹ He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. “It is not by strength that one prevails; ¹⁰ those who oppose the LORD will be broken. The Most High will thunder from heaven; the LORD will judge the ends of the earth. “He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.”
¹¹ Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.*

- Look at what Hannah believes about God
 - deliverer vs. 1
 - able to be trusted vs. 2
 - judge of the heart vs. 3
 - sovereign over man's affairs vs. 4-6
 - champion of the afflicted vs. 7-8
 - protector vs. 9
 - giver of strength vs. 10
- believes this about God – able to entrust her young son to his care

4. What Happens with Hannah?

- her legacy “¹⁸ ***But Samuel was ministering before the LORD—a boy wearing a linen ephod. 19 Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, “May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD.” Then they would go home. 21 And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.***

- God cares for Samuel – “²⁶ ***And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people.***”

So What

- in uncertain times, in less than ideal circumstances, we can lay foundations for God to deliver a legacy
1. Know Where to Take Your Disappointment and Pain
 - God cares and listens, take it to Him in prayer
 2. Learn How to Trust Him with the Outcome
 - pour it out, and trust Him to be in control
 - when it seems scary – remember what He has done
 3. Develop a Great Theology – and Depend on it
 - know who God is, what He has promised, trust him