

Friday, February 23, 2024 - Day 9 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am truly sorry for the moments yesterday where I missed the mark, where I did not do what you asked me to do. I ask your forgiveness and that you might give me the strength to better follow you today. May your mercies be new today, and may I give you the glory you rightly deserve.

Read 1 Samuel 2:1-10 (NIV)

Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn^[a] is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. “There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. “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. “The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength. 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. “The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up. The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts. 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. 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; 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.”

Answer the following questions:

2 Stories Converge – The story of Hannah and the story of the Worship and Sacrifice of God’s people. We see their intersection in 1 Samuel 1. In this convergence, we find Hannah’s Prayer. It is the prayer of a woman who understands the brokenness of the world – for she is barren. God’s promise to his people to be fruitful and multiply has been damaged, even marred by sin. And Hannah is just one of many who are dealing first-hand with that brokenness. Over time, Hannah comes to realize that her grief has become sinful, and her mourning had become her affliction. So, she goes before the Lord and repents. And in response to that repentance, Hannah says to God, “if you were to bless me with a child, I would not find my worth in that child, but I would dedicate the child to you, Oh Lord.” (paraphrase).

1. What situations or circumstances in your life have moved from being a season of grief to a sin and affliction? What circumstance might be causing you to remain in brokenness when God desires for you to be healed?
2. What is it going to take for you to be able to accept the healing God wants to give you?
3. Why is forgiving someone so difficult? Why do we naturally choose to hold on to the pain and grief for so long?
4. What changes in the words you hear in this passage from the words of someone stuck in a place of brokenness?
5. How might this apply in your life today?

Close in Prayer

Almighty God, even though we all do not desire the same things which Hannah desired, we have tried to make the temporary things of this world permanent. Help us to recognize the place we continue to sit and repent of that. Allow us to stand firmly on the Rock of Jesus Christ. Amen.