

## HANNAH: THE DESPERATE HEART BECOMES A DEPENDENT HEART<sup>1</sup>

### 1 Samuel 1

#### Review:

Everyone lives for some kind of treasure. (Matthew 6:19-20)

Whatever you treasure will control your heart. (Matthew 6:21)

Whatever controls your heart will control your behavior. (Matthew 6:24)

Therefore, it is important that I identify what effectively and functionally rules my heart. (Ezekiel 14:1-5, Luke 6:43-45)

If lasting change is going to take place, it must take place through the heart.

(Proverbs 4:23; Hebrews 4:12-13)

How are you guarding/keeping your heart?

Do not be passive but active in keeping your heart. (Deuteronomy 4:9)

You will give an account to the Lord for your actions (Romans 14:12)

#### Questions to get you thinking:

What makes you happy? I am not happy unless...

What has made you unhappy lately?

What in your life can make you desperate?

#### Hannah: The desperate heart

1. Hannah's circumstances are desperate. (1:2, 5, 6)
  - God's starting point is often our brokenness and inability
  - Everyone in this fallen broken world will eventually find themselves in desperate places sooner or later
  - BUT not everyone has a desperate heart – that is recognizing there is nothing that they can do
  - Where do you turn in desperation?
2. Hannah's pain was very real. (1:6, 6, 10, 15, 16)
  - She was driven to prayer her great anguish and grief.

#### Hannah: The desperate heart becomes a dependent heart

1. In her desperation Hannah turned toward God. (1:9-13)
  - She did not fix herself up
  - She did not wait until she was composed to speak with God
  - Crying is often a wonderful way to pray with great honesty
  - Even when we can not voice our thoughts and emotions the Spirit groans on our behalf (Romans 8:26, 27)

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<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Phil Smuland for much of this material.

2. Hannah went to the LORD Almighty. (1:11)
  - She knew he was sovereign over all
  - She knew he cared for her
  - She asked God for a son for His glory, not her own.
  
3. Immediately after she prayed, she is comforted. (1:18)
  - Hannah did not know how God would answer her prayer
  - BUT her heart was a dependent heart, and she believed her petition had been heard and the LORD would answer in the best way

Hannah: Keeps her word and glorifies God in word and deed

1. Hannah joyfully kept her promise to give her child to the Lord. (1:24-28)
  - She did it with joy not begrudgingly (See 1 Samuel 2:1 ff)
  - It is similar to Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55)
  
2. Hannah gloried not in the gift but in the gift-Giver.
  - What happened in 1 Samuel 2:21?

You never know how God will respond to your desperate circumstances, but he will respond to desperate hearts that turn to him. He will respond with the fullness of His covenant love and grace in keeping with his perfect purposes. (Romans 8:28-39)

**From *Instructions about Heartwork* by Richard Alleine**

Prov. 4:26 – Ponder the path of they feet

Doctrine: There are two paths; everyone is walking in one of them. There is the good path and the evil path, the path of life (Ps 16:11) and the path of destruction (Matt 7:13).

Sinners, ask yourselves this: Where is it that I am going? What is likely to be the end of this course I am taking? It is either to God or to the devil, either to heaven or to hell....Is hardness of heart your way? Is impenitence your sin? Do not your own hearts tell you, "I must turn from these evil paths."?

Your heart is not so hardened against repentance this year, but you are likely to find it harder the next year. The farther you go in sin, the farther off you are from repentance.

Consider, desire and labor, labor and pray that the Lord would fill up whatever is wanting in you. (Philippians 4:19-20)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: 1 SAMUEL 1:1-28

### **Lesson Discussion:**

What are some desperate circumstances that people face?

What desperate need have you prayed for and God has answered?

Where do you go, instead of to God, when you have a desperate need?

(I turn to .... friends, my strengths, TV, alcohol, pornography, food, etc.)

When you look at your own heart do you see an “every man did what was right in his own eyes” or a “desperate and dependent heart”?

Read Romans 8:28-30 out loud. Take a couple of minutes and recite what you are able of Romans 8:28.

Close in prayer as a group and continue to reflect on God’s call to a dependent heart full of joy.

**Personal Reflection:** (You may want to meet with someone from your group and share this after you have spent time thinking through your answers)

Is there a functional idol in your life that you need to give to God to know His joy?

Reflect on one example from your heart, where you are still crying out to God (for example, a lost child, failure vs. success in life, a healthy joyful marriage, etc.)

What desire of your heart do you fear that God will ask of you?

What are you holding onto that you know God demands?

What is holding you back from a dependent heart?