



21 DAYS OF PRAYER

02

DAY 02

JANUARY 10, 2023

Mike Hicks

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 1:9–18

“Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.”

I love how this story begins in verse one! At this strategic time and place, God began His plan as He almost always does – with a person He will use. God can do His work by Himself, or by angels, or by any number of other means, but His normal method is to find a certain person and work through him/her.

Hannah’s husband had another wife, I’ll call her Penny. There was an intense, competitive relationship between the two wives, Penny (who had children) and Hannah (who had no children). Strife and conflict were the order of the day at Hannah’s home. The conflict between the two wives affected Hannah so that she could not enjoy the display of love and favour from her husband, Elkanah. Hannah was provoked yearly about her “disability”. It was a very heavy weight she carried.

Q: Is it possible for problems at home to make your time at the house of God miserable?

Hannah is at the house of the LORD with a blessed double portion in front of her and she can’t enjoy it.

Hannah prayed to the LORD when she was in turmoil. Hannah was in bitterness of soul and great anguish, yet she did the right thing. Hannah took those bitter and anguished feelings to God honestly in prayer.

Hannah was challenged by God’s representative, Eli, but she did not cower under Eli’s accusation, she did not respond in an angry, offensive or arrogant tone. She explained herself, but she did it remembering that he was an authority. She said I have poured out my soul before the LORD. This is exactly what Hannah needed to do. Instead of keeping the bitterness of soul and the anguish in her heart, she poured it out of her soul before the LORD. The God of Israel grant your petition, Eli may have spoken this only as a kind wish, but it was in fact a word from the LORD.

Her face was no longer sad. The change in Hannah’s countenance shows that she received the promise with faith, something necessary if we will inherit the promises of God.

Q: What can we learn?

Hannah is a woman in the Bible who dealt with a lot of adversity in her life, yet she was unwavering in seeking out the Lord. We learn about Hannah's story and how she was in conflict, taunted by her adversary, and stressed out! Despite Hannah's challenges, she was determined to surrender and submit her cares before the Lord. She prayed through her pain and resolved to continue to trust God.

Like Hannah, we also face difficult challenges and difficult seasons in life but being diligent in seeking God in prayer will guide, uplift, and encourage us to move forward in faith. Our circumstances may not always yield our desired outcome, but God wants us to continuously pray to Him with courage, boldness, and expectation.

REFLECTIONS

- ▶ Do you consider yourself available to be used by God?
- ▶ Do struggles in your life cause you to run to God?
- ▶ Do you take your worry, hurt and bitterness to God and leave them with Him?

PRAYER

Father thank you, thank you, thank you. Jesus as we come to you today, we want to tell you thank you, thank you, thank you. I don't know any other way to express our gratitude to you. For shedding your blood on the cross. Thank you, Lord, that it represents the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. And so, Lord we pray for a spiritual healing, a spiritual cleansing, we pray a prayer of exchange and reject fear and call-in confidence. We reject anxiety and worry right now and speak peace and calm to come into our hearts and minds. We reject division and taking sides and pray for unity. Lord we come to You, and we repent, we are sorry Lord. We pray for a revival in Niagara. Lord we do this remembering what you did, what you are doing while waiting for your return. In Jesus name amen.

