

Been There Lesson 19

I can use
what they
meant for
evil and turn
it to good.

If you let Me.

1 Samuel 1

1 There was a man named Elkanah who lived in Ramah in the region of Zuph in the hill country of Ephraim. He was the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, of Ephraim.

2 Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah did not.

Psalm 127:3–5

3 Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him.

4 Children born to a young man are like arrows in a warrior's hands.

5 How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them! He will not be put to shame when he confronts his accusers at the city gates.

Even the rabbis, as time went on, had certain sayings, not Biblical, not from the heart of God.

But one rabbi even said, "There are seven people who will be excommunicated from God. The first is a Jew who has no wife. And the second is a Jew who has a wife but has no child."

Polygamy was always considered a last-resort option for men who were married to barren women and who wished to have children without divorcing the wives they loved.

If a woman couldn't bear a son or a daughter, that was grounds for a divorce if within a 10-year period there was no child.

Either a divorce, or the husband could be allowed in many of these cultures to marry a second wife.

3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh.

Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

4 On the days Elkanah presented his sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to Peninnah and each of her children.

5 but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb.

6 Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb.

So Peninnah would taunt Hannah and make fun of her because the LORD had kept her from having children.

5 but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb.

7 Year after year

7 Year after year it was the same—Peninnah would taunt Hannah as they went to the Tabernacle. Each time, Hannah would be reduced to tears and would not even eat.

8 “Why are you crying, Hannah?” Elkanah would ask. “Why aren’t you eating? Why be downhearted just because you have no children? You have me—isn’t that better than having ten sons?”

**EARNESTLY
PRAY FOR WHAT
WE WANT.**

9 Once after a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah got up and went to pray. Eli the priest was sitting at his customary place beside the entrance of the Tabernacle.

10 Hannah was in deep anguish, crying bitterly as she prayed to the LORD.

You can and
should cry and
weep and pray
and pour your
heart out to
God.

Praying
fervently and
passionately is
not only okay to
do but probably
a much needed
thing to do.

11 And she made this vow: "O LORD of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the LORD, his hair will never be cut."

12 As she was praying to the LORD, Eli watched her.

13 Seeing her lips moving but hearing no sound, he thought she had been drinking.

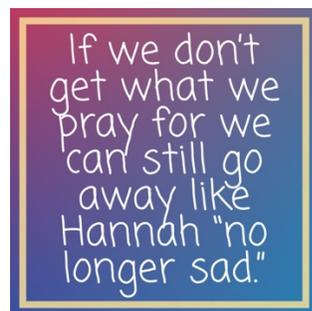
14 "Must you come here drunk?" he demanded. "Throw away your wine!"

15 "Oh no, sir!" she replied. "I haven't been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the LORD.

16 Don't think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow."

17 "In that case," Eli said, "go in peace! May the God of Israel grant the request you have asked of him."

18 "Oh, thank you, sir!" she exclaimed. Then she went back and began to eat again, and she was no longer sad.



19 The entire family got up early the next morning and went to worship the LORD once more. Then they returned home to Ramah. When Elkanah slept with Hannah, the LORD remembered her plea,

20 and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the LORD for him."

I used to
want this
for me but
now I want
this for
You.

Maybe
that's what
God wants
from us.

She plans
on keeping
her
promise to
God.

21 The next year Elkanah and his family went on their annual trip to offer a sacrifice to the LORD and to keep his vow.

22 But Hannah did not go. She told her husband, "Wait until the boy is weaned. Then I will take him to the Tabernacle and leave him there with the LORD permanently."

"Dear Friend: This chain letter is meant to bring relief and happiness to you. Unlike other chain letters, this one does not cost money. Simply send a copy of this letter to six other parents who are tired of their teenagers. Then bundle your teenager up and send him or her to the parent at the bottom of the list. In one week you will receive 16,436 teenagers – and one of them should be worth keeping. Warning: One dad broke the chain and got his own teenager back."

23 "Whatever you think is best," Elkanah agreed. "Stay here for now, and may the LORD help you keep your promise." So she stayed home and nursed the boy until he was weaned.

24 When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh. They brought along a three-year-old bull for the sacrifice and a basket of flour and some wine.

25 After sacrificing the bull, they brought the boy to Eli.

26 "Sir, do you remember me?" Hannah asked. "I am the very woman who stood here several years ago praying to the LORD.

27 I asked the LORD to give me this boy, and he has granted my request.

28 Now I am giving him to the LORD, and he will belong to the LORD his whole life." And they worshiped the LORD there.

1 Samuel 2

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.

Everything she
has is not hers.
Everything she
has is on loan
from God to be
used for Him.

**God has
loaned
those things
to us while
we are on
earth.**

**Surrendering
it all.**

**What I have
is Yours –
now how can
You use what
You have
given me?**

Everything
is on loan
from God.

They are
God's
responsibility.

Let Him
handle what
you can't.

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; upon them he has set the world.

11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.

1 Samuel 2:21

21 And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters.

Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

Let the
people who
hurt
motivate you
to serve God.

**Surrender
our whole
life to
Jesus.**

God I want
this but I
want this so I
can serve You
better.

**Everything
we have is
on loan
from God.**

**What I have
is Yours –
now how can
You use what
You have
given me?**