

A Heart After A Son

1 Samuel 1:1-20 (ESV)

There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation." Then Eli answered, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him." And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes." Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad. They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. And in due time

Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, "I have asked for him from the LORD."

We Have A Heart Problem

Jeremiah 17:9-10 (ESV)

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? "I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."

We Have A Heart Scalpel

Hebrews 4:12 (ESV)

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

3 Questions To Help Us Get To The Bottom Of Our Hearts

1. What does your heart want more than anything else?

Psalms 37:4 (ESV)

Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

2. What do you ask for in prayer?

James 4:2 (ESV)

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.

3. Why do you want what you want?

James 4:3 (ESV)

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

What was and was not in the heart of Hannah

Hannah was not satisfied with “more”

1 Samuel 1:5 (ESV)

But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb.

Hannah was not satisfied with her husband’s love

1 Samuel 1:8 (ESV)

And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

Two hints into Hannah’s heart

1 Samuel 1:6-7 (ESV)

And her rival used to provoke her grievously to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.

Hannah was desperate to silence the voice of her accuser

1 Samuel 1:16 (ESV)

“Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.”

Hannah was desperate to have an identity of worth

“You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.” – Augustine

Hannah’s desire for a son was, at its heart, a desire for *the* Son, King Jesus

Jesus is the Son who silences the accusations of the enemy.

Romans 8:31-34 (ESV)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also

with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Jesus is the Son who gives us our eternal worth

Romans 8:35-39 (ESV)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

"Define yourself radically as one beloved by God. This is the true self. Every other identity is illusion. God's love for you and His choice of you constitute your worth. Accept that, and let it become the most important thing in your life." – Brennan Manning