

Don't Waste Your Pain

Making the choice to be kingdom minded – 1 Samuel 1:1—2:10

Introduction: Pain is an unwelcome intrusion, robbing us of significance. But when we receive it in submission to God, our values get rearranged. Now we invest our lives in kingdom priorities. We aspire to kingdom significance.

1. *HANNAH'S PAIN – When we face chronic pain, we face some hard choices. 1 Samuel 1:1-8*

- A. *1ST SOURCE OF PAIN* – She has an identity problem: She has no kids. 1:2
1. When young women married in the ancient world they longed for children.
 2. Children provided a sense of *personal identity* and *economic security*.
 3. Childlessness was unbearably painful.
- B. *2ND SOURCE OF PAIN* – She has a relational problem: She has a rival. 1:2
1. God's ideal for marriage was always one man one woman for life.
 2. Polygamy was a source of money & power. But O.T. law made accommodations for it.
 3. It was a terribly painful situation. 1:6-7 (See also Genesis 4:19, 23-24)
- C. *3RD SOURCE OF PAIN* – She has a marital problem: Her husband is a mystery. 1:1,
1. On the one hand, Elkanah is a *good man*, with *social standing*, living in *dark times*. 1:3-5
 2. But Elkanah has made some bad decisions. 1:2, 4
 3. And Elkanah doesn't really understand Hannah. 1:8
- D. *WHO CAUSED HER PAIN?* – God caused some...allowed some. People in pain have choices.
1. Option 1: You can grow bitter, and in the process, hurt yourself and others.
 2. Option 2: You can become passionately kingdom minded.

2. *HANNAH'S PRAYER – The wise choice is to invest our pain in seeking God's direction. 1 Samuel 1:9-18a*

- A. *HOW IT BEGINS* – She actively seeks fellowship with God. 1:9-10
1. She walks past Eli into the temple. (The temple was the place for fellowship with God.)
 2. She pours out her heart to God in prayer, weeping and mourning her situation. 1:10
- B. *IT CONTINUES* – She prays and makes a vow. 1:11
1. Her prayer indicates great knowledge of God: Note God's name & the words of Exo. 3:7.
 2. She vows to give her son to God in two ways: as a priest and Nazarite.
- C. *THE OUTCOME* – She seeks out a promise from God. 1:12-18a
1. At first Eli believes she's drunk. (This is the 2nd man who misunderstands.) 1:12-14
 2. But Eli makes a promise that her prayer will come to pass. 1:15-18a
 3. Hannah takes courage in God's promise. 1:18b

3. *HANNAH'S PURPOSE – When we make that choice we receive new purpose: seek God's kingdom, even if it means sacrifice. 1 Sam. 1:19-2:11*

- A. Her *immediate* purpose is to claim her promise from God. 1:19-21
1. She has relations with her husband. 1:19
 2. She names her son consistent with the promise. 1:20
 3. She influences her husband to keep her vow. 1:21
- B. Her *intermediate* purpose is to prepare her son and herself for a life of sacrifice. 1:22-28
1. For four years she is highly intentional. 1:22
 2. Then she must give him up: note the expense and risk in her actions. 1:28
- C. Her *long-term* purpose is to entrust her significance up to God. 2:1-11
1. Hannah's song is her worship celebration. Note her joy in contrast to her rival.
 2. Hannah's song is completely kingdom centered and Christ centered. 2:10