

MARRIAGE

A Husband and Wife Living Under the Cross of Jesus

“Marriage rescues love from the tyranny of strong but immature feelings. It forces a person to live out times of difficulty, and win through new depths of love and understanding...In marriage, we are not the helpless pawns of love. Rather, we train love to be the willing servant of our marriage.” – Larry Christenson, The Christian Family

How often does the cross come into Hannah’s life? And what is her response and the result in her life?

Elkanah-Hannah-Penninah & Samuel: **1 Samuel 1-2**

Hannah would have been filled with idealistic dreams for her marriage to Elkanah which would have included having children. Elkanah would also, being a Levite, married Hannah with the expectation of her bearing children. Bearing children would be regarded as a blessing from God. **Deuteronomy 7:13-14, Psalm 127:4-5**

1:1-2 – What do we see Hannah going through in these verses? What was her life like?

1:3 – Elkanah would have known what type of men Hophni and Phinehas were (**2:12**) and to one day give his son, Samuel over to the care of Eli, the father of these “worthless men” would have also been a test of faith.

Are there circumstances we have faced that remind us of trusting God in this way? Notice the priority in Elkanah and Hannah’s life from **1 Samuel 1:23**

1:4-8:

- What caused Penninah to be so embittered against Hannah? What if we had to share our wife with another man? Let us not underestimate the destructive power of disappointment, jealousy that leads to bitterness. **Colossians 3:19, Hebrews 12:14-15**
- How important was Elkanah’s love (**1:8**) toward Hannah in helping her deal with the disappointment of the Lord closing her womb and the harassment of Penninah? How does this relate to us as husbands? **Proverbs 31:10**
- Could Elkanah’s love for his wife lift the cross of bareness and rivalry from her back?

1:10-11 – Hannah’s response to her circumstances (much different from Penninah’s) **Job 2:9-10** – What principles/lessons can we learn from the contrast of these two women?

- Would you say Hannah was making a deal with God or was it a full surrender to the will of God?

“God knows that unless we find our ultimate happiness in Him, we will become hopelessly enslaved to things that can never deliver the life that we are seeking. Hannah was not asking for herself, but in total surrender to God” – Paul Tripp

- Hannah’s reaction after prayer (**1:18**). Hannah’s reaction upon giving up her little boy (**2:1-10**)

“What opportunities present themselves daily to the man to give—to express toward his mate the love of One who gave up His very life for His Bride! What opportunities present themselves daily to the woman to give—to express the faithfulness of the Church as it is described in Ephesians 5:24 and 27....subject in everything to Christ...without spot or wrinkle, holy and without blemish! This is not merely an ideal, but is the projected goal of the Holy Spirit with every Christian couple.”

- Larry Christenson

“For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

1 Corinthians 1:18