

Sermon Text Discussion 8/19/2018

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11 Hope for the Humble and the Message of 1-2 Samuel (Drew Hunter)

Overview

1 Samuel is a 'big-picture book'. In it we will see the nation of Israel transition from being a tribal nation to a united kingdom, we will see a transition of leadership – from judges to kings, and we will learn through the stories of three key, historical leaders – Samuel, Saul, and David. It is filled with stories of success and failure, victory and defeat. And through it, we are pointed to the one and only true king – Jesus. Yet, this incredible book begins with the story of Hannah, a little known woman, from a little known family, who lives in a little known town. Hannah's story unlocks the central message of the whole book, and a central theme of the Bible: God humbles the strong and exalts the humble.

Quotations

"God is always doing 10,000 things in your life, and you may be aware of three of them." John Piper

"Hannah's response to being barren was radical. She doesn't put her hope in children. She doesn't put her hope in marriage. She puts her hope in God." Drew Hunter

Understanding & Application

- 1) Hannah was deeply grieved by something God had not allowed her to have – a child. In what ways did she suffer because of this? How did she respond? What actions did she take?
- 2) Name and discuss other biblical examples when God did not fulfill a desire of one of His people? Were their responses the same or different from Hannah's? What can we learn from these examples?
- 3) What experience do you have in your own life of God not meeting a deep desire? How was your response been the same and/or different than Hannah's? What have you learned through your experience?
- 4) What biblical texts come to mind that could help someone struggling to understand God's plan for their life when it is not as they hoped or desired?
- 5) Read 1 Samuel 16:7. In light of this verse and the introduction to the book of Samuel through the story of Hannah, what do we learn about what God values in leaders? How does this differ from what the world values?
- 6) A key theme in the book of Samuel is the value God places on a humble heart. In what areas of your life might you be overly arrogant and prideful? What steps will you take to ensure you remain humble?