



Episode 1:
Making Room For Hope
Starring:
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Sermon Series: Character Matters

Making Room For Hope

In critical moments character matters

Our character shapes the future.

A story of love

⁴ Whenever Elkanah (the husband El) offered a sacrifice, he always gave portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah (Penny-na/ Her name means Jewel) and to each of her sons and daughters. ⁵ But he gave a double portion to Hannah, for he loved her even though the LORD had kept her from conceiving. ⁶ Her rival would taunt her severely just to provoke her, because the LORD had kept Hannah from conceiving. ⁷ Year after year, when she went up to the LORD's house, her rival taunted her in this way. Hannah would weep and would not eat.

1 Samuel 1:4-7 CSB

What do we lack?

- children, a spouse, connection
- health, direction, money, family salvation

At times, God prevents something seemingly good from happening for a greater purpose. Other times, the fractured situation of our broken world keeps things just out of reach.

1. Hurt must be overcome

⁸ “Hannah, why are you crying? ” her husband Elkanah would ask. “Why won’t you eat? Why are you troubled? Am I not better to you than ten sons?”

1 Samuel 1:8 CSB

Do you curse that person or cry out to God?

Do we approach the pain maker or the Way Maker?

¹ My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far from my deliverance and from my words of groaning? ² My God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, by night, yet I have no rest. ³ But you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Psalms 22:1-3 CSB

It’s okay to be honest with God about what we are feeling.

2. Hearts must be opened

⁹ On one occasion, Hannah got up after they ate and drank at Shiloh. The priest Eli was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s temple. ¹⁰ Deeply hurt, Hannah prayed to the Lord and wept with many tears. ¹¹ Making a vow, she pleaded, “Lord of Armies, if you will take notice of your servant’s affliction, remember and not forget me, and give your servant a son, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and his hair will never be cut.”

1 Samuel 1:9-11 CSB

Do not think:

- If I call out to God more, I’ll get what I want
- If I promise something to the Lord, I’ll get what I want.
- I can only praise God when he gives me what I want.

¹² While she continued praying in the Lord's presence, Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying silently, and though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli thought she was drunk ¹⁴ and said to her, "How long are you going to be drunk? Get rid of your wine!" ¹⁵ "No, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman with a broken heart. I haven't had any wine or beer; I've been pouring out my heart before the Lord. ¹⁶ Don't think of me as a wicked woman; I've been praying from the depth of my anguish and resentment.

1 Samuel 1:12-16 CSB

Hannah's open heart makes room for this statement of hope to be accepted.

¹⁷ Eli responded, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant the request you've made of him." ¹⁸ "May your servant find favour with you," she replied. Then Hannah went on her way; she ate and no longer looked despondent.

1 Samuel 1:17-18 CSB

Open hearts make room for hope.

²³ Watch over your heart with all diligence,
For from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23 NASB

3. Hope must be offered

Hope gives us renewed strength to face tomorrow.

"Hope is the power of being cheerful in circumstances that we know to be desperate."

– G.K. Chesterton

¹⁹ The next morning Elkanah and Hannah got up early to worship before the Lord. Afterward, they returned home to Ramah. Then Elkanah was intimate with his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. ²⁰ After some time, Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, because she said, "I requested him from the Lord."

1 Samuel 1:19 CSB

God's gifts are not for us to have a comfortable life.

¹ Hannah prayed: My heart rejoices in the LORD; my horn is lifted up by the LORD. My mouth boasts over my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. ² There is no one holy like the LORD. There is no one besides you! And there is no rock like our God. ³ Do not boast so proudly, or let arrogant words come out of your mouth, for the LORD is a God of

knowledge, and actions are weighed by him. ⁴ The bows of the warriors are broken, but the feeble are clothed with strength. ⁵ Those who are full hire themselves out for food, but those who are starving hunger no more. The woman who is childless gives birth to seven, but the woman with many sons pines away. ⁶ The LORD brings death and gives life; he sends some down to Sheol, and he raises others up. ⁷ The LORD brings poverty and gives wealth; he humbles and he exalts. ⁸ He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the trash heap. He seats them with noblemen and gives them a throne of honour. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; he has set the world on them. ⁹ He guards the steps of his faithful ones, but the wicked perish in darkness, for a person does not prevail by his own strength. ¹⁰ Those who oppose the LORD will be shattered; he will thunder in the heavens against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth.

1 Samuel 2:1-10 CSB

He will give power to his king; he will lift up the horn of his anointed.

Hannah offered her son, as God would offer his.

Open hearts make room for hope.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, I want to receive you today.
I believe that You died on the cross
to pay the price for my sins.

I admit I'm a sinner in need of a Saviour,
and I'm inviting you to be mine right now.
Come into my life.

Forgive my sin.
Live in me as my Leader from now on.
Thank you for giving me hope.

Amen

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