



2016: Week 19

Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 2016

"What Is Your 'This'?"

### 1 Samuel 1:27

"<sup>27</sup> For this boy I prayed, and the LORD has given me my petition which I asked of Him" (NASB).

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This past Sunday was Mother's Day, and we studied a passage in 1 Samuel 1 involving a mother named Hannah. Hannah prayed specifically for a son, and the Lord remembered her and her prayers. Hannah was a godly woman who trusted in the Lord even though she was undergoing a difficult season in her life. There are several lessons we can learn and apply from Hannah's story.

#### 1. READ 1 Samuel 1:1-8

- What were the trials in Hannah's life (v.1-8)?
- What roles did Elkanah and Penninah play in Hannah's trials (v.6-8)?
- When you go through a difficult season of life, sometimes people might act like either Penninah (mocking your pain) or Elkanah (not understanding your pain). Which response have you found to be more difficult to receive, a Penninah-type response or an Elkanah-type? Why?
- What trials are you experiencing today? What do you think God feels when He watches you enduring these trials?

#### 2. READ 1 Samuel 1:9-28

- What were Hannah's responses to her trials?
- Do you think Hannah knew the Lord would answer her specific request with a "yes"? Why or why not?
- From life's experience we know that God doesn't always answer "yes" to our prayer requests. Sometimes He might answer with a "no." Why might this be a good thing?
- How should we respond to the Lord when He answers our prayer request:  
a) with a yes, b) with a *no*, and c) in a way we're *not exactly sure* what His answer is?

#### 3. READ

- **Romans 8:28** "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."
- **Psalm 84:11** "For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD gives grace and glory; no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly."

Sometimes it is for our good that the Lord answers our prayers with a "yes," and sometimes it's for our good that He answers our prayers with a "no." Sometimes He might answer our prayers with a "yes," but it takes longer for it to transpire than we expected. We can't control God's plans or His will, but we can control *how* we approach Him in prayer. We can also control how *specific* we get when we speak to Him in prayer. Hannah prayed respectfully for "this boy." What specifically is the "this" in your life that you need to respectfully discuss with God?

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Talk to the Lord about your "this" (both individually and as a family). *Trust, Submit, & Commit.*