

Message Notes

June 19, 2011



The Search for Significance #1

1 Samuel: Chapters 1-3

Introduction:

There was a man named Elkanah from... the mountains of Ephraim. Elkanah had two wives, one named Hannah, the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Because the Lord had made her unable to have children, her rival Peninnah tormented her endlessly in order to make her miserable. This happened year after year. Whenever Hannah went to the Lord's house, Peninnah would make her miserable, and Hannah would cry and not eat. Her husband Elkanah would ask her, "Hannah, why are you crying? Why haven't you eaten? Why are you so downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" 1 Samuel 1:1-2, 6-8 (GWT)

"Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the LORD's house. ¹⁰ In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly. ¹¹ And she made a vow, saying, "LORD Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

¹² As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk." 1 Samuel 1:9-13 (NIV)

Notice This: Hannah isn't satisfied with removing the shame from herself, she wants to remove the shame from all of _____!

Success vs. Significance: 3 major distinctives...

1. MOTIVATION:

• The motivation for success is usually _____.
The motivation for significance _____ be self-focused.

Think About It: True Christian ministry is always about significance (not success). A true Christian minister always says "_____."

"Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the LORD. ²⁷ I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. ²⁸ So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." 1 Samuel 1:26-28 (NIV)

And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My strength is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation." 1 Samuel 2:1 (NKJV)

2. INFLUENCE:

• With success, your influence is _____.
With significance, your influence becomes _____.

"And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with people." 1 Samuel 2:26 (NIV)

"Now the sons of Eli were corrupt; they did not know the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:12 (NKJV)

"...I am going to do to Eli and his family everything I said from beginning to end. I told him that I would hand down a permanent judgment against his household because he knew about his sons' sin – that they were cursing God – but he didn't try to stop them." 1 Samuel 3:12-13 (GWT)

The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured."

When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died. 1 Samuel 4:16-18 (NIV)

3. TIME:

• Success can last no more than your _____.
Significance will last _____ your lifetime.

Remember: The journey to significance takes _____, and the road is not an easy one.

"Because the Lord had made her unable to have children, her rival Peninnah tormented her endlessly in order to make her miserable. This happened year after year." 1 Samuel 1:6-7 (GWT)

ILLUSTRATION:

CLOSING: Success can last no more than a lifetime...

