

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE GOD WHO CARES

I SAMUEL 1:19-28

JANUARY 22ND, 2023

- I. A Miraculous Child Given: vs. 19-20
- II. A Deep Trust Expressed: vs. 21-23
- III. A Weighty Vow Fulfilled: vs. 24-28
- IV. Application:
 - a. Steward faithfully everything you've been given
 - b. Love the Giver more than His gifts
 - c. Embrace the God who cares

Questions:

1. From vs. 19 we see Hannah and Elkanah worship at Shiloh before knowing that God would grant her a child. Why is worship of the Lord so important when we walk through painful disappointment? Why can worship be difficult in these seasons?
2. We learn that "God remembered Hannah" in vs. 20. Why is it so tempting to project human qualities onto God and what's the danger of this? Can you think of other qualities besides "remembering" that we tend to do this with?
 - Love: in what ways do we tend to think God loves in the same way we love?
 - Knowledge: in what ways do we tend to think God knows things the same way we know things?
 - Self-sufficient (He has no needs): in what ways do we tend to think God has needs like us?
3. What do you think is meant in vs. 23 when Elkanah said, "May the Lord establish His Word," and why do you think that? What's the importance of "God's word" throughout 1 Samuel and the Bible?
4. In vs. 24-28 we see a gut-wrenching moment when Hannah gives her child to the Lord in the care of Eli all the days of his life. Take a moment and share how you might've felt in this moment if you were Hannah. Why is it helpful to remember the "human side" in the characters of the Bible rather than "glorifying" them as almost like super-heroes?
5. Looking at the three application points, reflect on the first one: steward faithfully everything you've been given. We see this principle lived out in Hannah resisting an "owner" mindset with Samuel and instead acts as a faithful steward giving back to God what truly belongs to Him. What area of your life (children, relationships, money, time, gifts, resources, possessions, etc.) do you tend to struggle being a faithful steward and act more like an owner? Why do you think that is?

6. Another application point from the passage was to love the Giver more than His gifts. Why is this passage not a universal equation to follow that when we're sad and deeply disappointed all we need to do is pray by faith and God will give us what we want? Why is worship and loving God above all so important?
7. This first chapter of 1 Samuel is about God. Reflect on how God cares for you personally and share a time in your life in which God's loving care was particularly experienced by you and how that ministered to you.