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**SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)**

**TUESDAY**

**OPEN**

Why is your heart sad beloved? You know sometimes when I get sad I, I sit there and I tear up and I tear up because I'm a woman. And I know that men many times want to tear up, but they're going to bite their lip instead. The question is, when you're sad what do you do? Weeping: it's natural and it's all right to weep, but you need to do more than weep. You need to pray and that's what we'll talk about today.

**PART ONE**

Remember at the opening of the program I asked you why is your heart sad? You know that is a direct quote from the book of 1 Samuel, the book that we're studying. I hope that you have gone to our website [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and you have downloaded your study guide. And if you have you should have 1 Samuel, chapter 1 right in front of you because we're studying this inductively. We're going to the text to the Word of God. These are the very words of God. Do you realize that? Do you realize that when you open the

Bible and when you're looking at a translation that comes from the Greek and from the Hebrew, the Old Testament Hebrew in Aramaic and the New Testament Greek, that when you look at it, you're looking at the very words of God, words that are God breathed, words that have been put in print, words that have been preserved for you and for me today, that you and I might know God's precepts for life, that we might know how to live, that we might have the answer for every situation of life. Well Hannah needed the answer for the situation of her life, because she was barren, she was a wife of a man who had two wives and the other wife, O man, she had sons and she had daughters. And not only that, but she was nasty to Hannah. So it's almost like Hannah is all by herself in this. Now we're going to mark the script. And yesterday we read through verse 8. But I want us to go back and I would suggest that you take a yellow highlighter or a yellow crayon of some sort. And by the way, you can go to our website and find out how to get these awesome, awesome eight colored pencils that are just wonderful, but anyway, find yellow and, or find whatever color you want. Yellow's my color for God. And as I read this I want you to see what the Lord has done to Hannah. Okay, now I'm going to start in verse 4 of 1 Samuel, chapter 1. "When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb." (1 Samuel 1:4-5) You say I saw it, I saw it. That's what God had done to Hannah. The Lord had closed her womb. And you see today we might say oh, I wish God would do that to me. I mean that's the perfect birth control. God closes my womb. You know we think that way today, but that's not the way they thought in those days. In those days, children were very, very precious. They were not an inconvenience. They were not a pain. They were a sign of blessing from God. And for a woman to be barren was really in a sense, a shame, because she was not fulfilling her role as a woman, because it's only a woman that can give birth to a child. I mean a man can have a part in it, but only the woman can carry the child. Only the woman can give birth to that child. Only the woman can bring that child to her

breasts and suckle and nourish that child and watch that child grow, because his life or her life, whatever the child is, a girl or a boy, has come from her very body. So the Lord had closed her womb. And it says in verse 6, “Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb.” (1 Samuel 1:6) Do you think God wants you to get the point here? And what is the point? Well you want to mark it, color it yellow and it’s because the Lord had closed her womb. He tells you twice so that you don’t miss it. He tells you twice so that you understand that it’s not just that she had some genetic problem; it was God that had closed her womb. And you say, what kind of a God is that? Well, I want you to hold on, because sometimes when we’re in a trial, sometimes when everything seems dark, sometimes when the pain seems overwhelming or the void seems so cavernous like it will never be filled or could never be satisfied, we forget that there’s a God. We forget, as we saw yesterday that if He had a future and a hope for Israel, then because you are His child He has a future for you and He has hope for you. Now Hannah is weeping. It says it happened, verse 7, year after year, and if you didn’t hear yesterday, you would put a time phrase, a little clock around year. You say, which one? It doesn’t matter, just so that you get the time phrase there so that you know that it’s there. “[And] It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she [Peninnah] would provoke her...;” Hannah, or Hannah, as they say in Israel, “...so she wept and would not eat.”(1 Samuel 1:7) I mean this was really a great pain in her life, a great source of grief. And you can understand it because I mean women weren’t out there in the business place, having big careers and everything. Their career was family. Their career was their home. Their career was their husband. And by the way, I want you to know; it’s not a bad career. And it doesn’t mean that you’re not a capable woman. As a matter of fact, I mean this is the epitome of fulfillment, is making your husband and your children and your home your career. So don’t let the world tell you anything else. The world doesn’t know what they’re talking about. The world lies under the power of the evil one. He’s a liar; he’s a murderer; he’s a destroyer. He abides not in the truth.

Listen; put your fingers in your ears and don't listen to him. And you say, but it's in my mind. Well, the way you take care of that is you rebuke him and you focus on the Word of God, so let's go back to the Word of God. What do I want you to mark now? I want you to mark verse 7, the reference to the house of the Lord. And this is all the way through my Bible, and I'm in the process of marking a new Inductive Study Bible, which is designed to teach you how to study inductively and which gives you the instructions for marking every book of the Bible individually, according to the things that you want to see in that book or that the Lord wants you to see in that book. And so I color every reference to the house of the Lord in blue. So in Samuel, where God is still living in a tent, I color it blue. When I get to Kings, where Solomon builds the temple, I color it blue. So every reference to wherever the Shekinah glory, the house of the Lord is set up that's what I color blue. So I can look down and see on my page how many times it's there. Now we know that Elkanah has gone up to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. We know that the only place that the Jews were allowed to sacrifice under God's commandments were at the tabernacle, at the tent of meeting. If you have an Inductive Study Bible, by the way, you should go to the front of that Bible and you'll see a beautiful colored picture of the tent of meeting so that you can understand it better. You'll also see a cloud that hovers over the holy of holies because that was the cloud of the Lord's presence, so He was there. So she's going up year after year to the house of the Lord. This is a pain of her heart, a void that she has felt for a number of years and she's weeping. Now I mark wept and what I do is I simply take pink and draw a teardrop and color it pink. "...[And] so she wept and [she] would not eat. Then Elkanah her husband said to her, 'Hannah, why do you weep and why do you not eat and why is your heart sad...?'"(1 Samuel 1:8a) Now I always mark the reference to the heart. And I mark the reference to the heart because the heart is like the control center of our lives. And so I mark it here and obviously, I just draw a red heart over it. "...why is your heart sad? Am I not better to you than ten sons?" (1 Samuel 1:8b) You know, she had a good husband, but it wasn't enough. She wanted a child and

you can understand that. Now Elkanah couldn't understand it because he thought he was enough. I mean, pretty good. All right, but he wasn't. "[And so] Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh..." So you want to double underline it. You want to know where this woman is. Remember we're looking at the five W's and an H, the who, the what, the when, the where, the why and the how. So she was eating and, "...rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord." (1 Samuel 1:9) Well that's a synonymous phrase for the house of the Lord, so you would color it again. I colored mine, as I told you blue. All right now, Hannah is encountering Eli the priest. ["He's sitting on the doorpost; he's sitting on a seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord."] You're going to find out why he's sitting down later on; I'm not going to tell you. And it says, "She, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly." (1 Samuel 1:10) So here again I see her weeping, so I want to mark that. But now, every time you come to prayer in the Bible, any reference to prayer or making supplication or requesting of God, get a way to mark it and mark it the same way all the way through the Bible, so you can look down at the page and see immediately if prayer is mentioned on that page. And then you can look at it and see what you learn about prayer. So here is a woman who's weeping and is greatly distressed and she's doing what she needs to do; she's praying to the Lord. You see your heart can be sad and you can weep and that's natural; but what's going to take care of the situation is not only that you weep, but you pray. You can keep weeping beloved; God gave us tears, but you need to pray. And what happens when she prays? We'll talk about it right after this announcement.

## **PART TWO**

Welcome back my friend. We're back to Hannah who is weeping bitterly; Hannah, who is greatly distressed; but Hannah who is wise enough to pray to God. And what does she say when she prays? Well let's look at 1 Samuel, chapter 1, verse 11. "She made a vow and said, 'O Lord of hosts...,'" Here is

that title for God again, Jehovah or Jehovah-Saboath, the Lord of hosts, You're the One that's in charge, You're the One that rules over everything. She says, "...if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head." (1 Samuel 1:11) Now when she says this, what she's doing is it's like she's making a vow of a Nazirite for her son if God will give her a son. Nazirite means consecration or devotion or separation, so a Nazirite was someone who was bound a vow of consecration to God's purpose. It was either for a specific period of time or for life. A Nazirite's devotion to God was evidenced outwardly by not cutting the hair, by abstaining from wine and alcoholic drinks and by avoiding contact with the dead. Now if they violated any of these, if they cut their hair or they got in touch with a dead person some way these would bring defilement and need of purification. But what we see Hannah doing is saying ["God; I want You to open my womb. I want You to give me a child. I'm asking for a boy and I'm asking for a boy and if You will give that boy to me, I will give that boy to You. And he will be consecrated to You. He will be set aside to You. A razor will never come on his head. He will be dedicated to You."] Now that's quite a statement. Here's woman with an empty womb that God has closed. She knows that it's God that opens the womb and so she goes to God in her tears in this hopelessness and in this void in her life and cries out to God and just in a sense wants that experience, but that experience of having a child that she can know that she has given back to God. I want to stop here for a minute and ask you, to whom does your child belong? You say to me. Well, who gave you that child? You know if you study Psalm 139 you see that [God formed us in our mother's womb. God numbered our days when there was not one of them. He says we are fearfully and wonderfully made.] A child is given by God. You say, but I had sex out of wedlock and that's how I had my child. I want you to know that God gave you that child. And God gave you that child as a child to raise for Him so that you can take that child and consecrate that

child to God. And you know what? Yesterday, we opened this series, by looking at the fact that even in the darkness, even in the despair, even when there's no hope, there's God. And so there is hope. God promises us, just like He promised Israel a future and a hope. God tells us in the New Testament, ["all things are going to work together for good. God tells us that we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."] (Romans 8:28) In other words, there's always a future; there's always a hope. We're to be steadfast. We're to be immovable. We're to be abounding in the work of the Lord because our labor is not in vain. There's always a hope. He's coming; His reward is with Him. Beloved, right now you're weeping bitterly, but in your bitter weeping pray, pray. Tell God what you want. Tell God what you think you need. Tell God what you're going to do with it. Tell God that if He answers that prayer, that it's not going to be just for your selfish absorption, but it's going to be so that whatever He gives you, whatever He supplies will be used for His glory, will be used to exalt Him, will be used to bring Him honor. This is what Hannah is doing here. And it says now it came about as she continued praying. Well there's that word praying again and you want to mark it. You say you didn't tell me how to mark it. Well if you got the study guide, (laughing), if you downloaded that study guide, if you went to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and you downloaded it, you know how to mark it. If you can't figure out your own marking, which is fine. "...[but] she continued praying before the Lord, Eli was watching her mouth." (1 Samuel 1:12) Now remember when you study inductively you got to find out who, who. That's one of the five W's and an H, who. Well we know that Eli, from verse 3 was a priest to the Lord in Shiloh. All right we know that Hannah is in Shiloh because we marked it. So Eli is sitting there watching her mouth. And it says, "As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving..." (1 Samuel 1:13a) In other words, her lips were saying the words, but the sound wasn't coming out. It was all in her heart. And you know, you've prayed that way and your mouth has moved, but nothing's come out. It says, "...but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk." (1 Samuel 1:13b) So here's a woman now, in distress in this dark

situation and she's being misinterpreted. You know sometimes people look at us and they misinterpret our lives. They think okay; you haven't had a child so God hasn't favored you. You're not driving a big car; God hasn't favored you. You haven't had success in this area; God's not favoring you. You know one of the things that we need to see is success of any kind can be withheld by God. And it can be withheld by God because God has a purpose in it. Know this, it's never because God's mean. It's never because God's impotent. It's because God has a purpose in it. And God had a purpose in Hannah's barrenness. God had a purpose in closing her womb. God had a purpose in her tears. And Hannah is about to find out that purpose by taking that whole situation and speaking to God about it, speaking in her heart, praying to God, crying out to God, saying God, please, if You will, I will. And you know, if you ever say to God, if You will, I will, then you better keep the I will. And this is what we're going to see: will Hannah get a child? Will Hannah then keep her promise and give that child back to God? Will that child be consecrated to God for a specific period of time or for life? Will a razor never touch his head? That's what we're going to see as we continue our exciting study in 1 Samuel. O, Beloved, I want you to know that if your heart is sad today and you're weeping that's all right, you weep, but don't just weep, pray. Talk to God and God will listen and God will hear and God will move in His time and in His way, because He has a future for you and He has a hope for you. And that's because you are precious in His sight. So, persevere, precious one.