

## Chapter 10: Standing Tall, Falling Hard



Discussion Questions – *(there's a lot, but there was a lot in this chapter!)*

1. How did Elkanah show that he loved Hannah?
2. Have you ever tried to “help” someone but just made the situation worse?
  - a. What did you say or do?
  - b. What was the response?
  - c. Was there a resolution?
3. Looking at Hannah’s character and actions what do we learn from her?
4. How does looking at what you already have give you perspective on what you don’t?
5. Hannah’s anguish was very real.
  - i. What were the exact reasons for it?
  - ii. How did she express this?
  - iii. Was she going about it in the right way?
  - iv. How would you show anguish if in a similar situation?
6. What assumptions did Eli make about Hannah?
  - i. Knowing this takes place in the time of the Judges is this reaction warranted?
7. What was Hannah’s prayer/plea/promise?

- i. How did God answer Hannah?
  - ii. What do you think of Hannah's promise?
8. What does Samuel's name mean?
9. Thinking through these circumstances what kinds of emotions are plausible for each of the players in this little drama:
  - a. Hannah?
  - b. Samuel?
  - c. Eli?
  - d. Elkanah?
10. What is the distance from Ramathaim to Shiloh?
11. How did Hannah show she loved and had not forgotten Samuel?
12. How did God show Hannah that He had honored her sacrifice by fulfilling her vow?
13. What does it mean "To grow up in the presence of the Lord"?
14. Why did a life of godliness take for Samuel and not for Hophni & Phineas, when both were raised in the same environment?
15. What was significant about Samuel's conversation with God?
16. Have you ever had to deliver bad news?
  - a. How did you go about it?
    - i. Good news / Bad news
    - ii. Rip the band aid off
    - iii. Sweeten it with compliments
    - iv. Completely avoid
17. What was the bad news Samuel delivered to Eli?
18. How is someone recognized as "gifted by God"?
19. People many times put their trust in tangible things rather than put their faith in God?
  - i. Why do you suppose this is?
  - ii. How **does** one grow in faith?
20. How did God show the Philistines who captured the ark that He was a powerful God?
21. Why did God allow the Philistines to win their battle?
  - i. Does this have any parallel with Christians who live in 2018?
22. It's often hard not to take someone's spiritual wandering personally, how did God reassure Samuel?
  - i. Is this any comfort for people who have friends and family who wander away from walking with God?

23. In your experiences have you ever gotten what you wanted only to find it didn't live up to your expectations?
  - i. What kind of leader were the Israelites wanting?
- b. What did God say they would get?
24. What was Saul's physical description?
  - i. How would you treat someone who looked like that?
  - ii. Would **YOU** make Saul a king?
25. Do you think it was wrong for the Israelites to ask for a king?
26. Why was it such a big deal that the Israelites had rejected God and wanted a king?
27. Have you ever waited for a rescue? What kinds of emotions do you experience while you wait
28. What was Saul doing when the word of Jabesh's siege got to him?
  - i. Does this sound kingly?
  - ii. Does this raise or lower your impressions of Saul?
29. What changed Saul?
30. Has the Holy Spirit ever driven you into action?
  - i. How so?
  - ii. What was the result?
- b. Is this something we **SHOULD** expect of 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians?
31. Why didn't the Lord reject His people even though they sinned?
  - i. What kind of relationship does this show God has with His people?
32. What was the stern warning that Samuel gave to Israel?
33. How long did Saul reign?
34. How did Saul overstep his authority?
  - i. Why was that so important?
  - ii. What were the consequences?
35. Have you been unwilling to do all that you've been told to do?
  - i. What kind of result did this bring for you?
  - ii. What reasons could God have wanted to limit the spoils/loot taken from the defeated army?
36. Where do you see God's grace in this story?