



DGM Message Title: Sincere, Specific, & Sacrificial

Theme: The Generosity Series

Sermon Date: 5/13/2018

Message Summary: Often times when we ask God for something, our prayers are not answered. Our prayers often only concern us and nothing else. We must be sincere, specific, and sacrificial in our prayers and God will bless us even more than what we asked for.

Scripture References (NKJV):

- I Samuel 1:1
- I Samuel 1:4-7
- I Samuel 1:10-14
- I Samuel 1:17-19
- Job 2:10
- I Samuel 2:21
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Key Points:

- I Samuel 1:1
 - At uncertain times, God's plans always begin with a certain person
 - God has chosen you for this life because He has chosen you to live it
 - If you're in it, you must have what it takes to get through it
 - There is a certain man named Elkanah
 - He was a solid guy
 - Traceable roots in history
 - Was head of the Levitical clan
 - He had two wives
 - When you read about two wives in the Bible, there's typically trouble around it
 - Polygamy was very common in the ancient world because they wanted children and wanted them to take care of them when they got older
 - Too many spoons stirring the pot spills the soup.
 - One of the wives was Hannah which meant grace
 - The other wife was Peninnah which meant pearl
 - Hannah had no children
 - Peninnah had children
 - Baroness in the ancient world was a curse
 - Having children was viewed as a blessing
 - There was probably issues in the home but it did not keep Elkanah from going to church

- I Samuel 1:4
 - When it was time for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give a portion to Peninnah and her children
- I Samuel 1:5
 - To Hannah he would give a double portion
 - She had twice as much in one area, but it didn't make up for the deficit in other areas
 - He loves Hannah although he closed her womb
 - He loved her in spite of her baroness
 - Despite her weakness, he loved her
- Job 2:10
 - Until we get to heaven, life will be a mixed bag for all of us
 - Most people think that when they give their life to Jesus, there will be no more pain or sorrow and that's not true.
 - There will still be pain, but now you have purpose
 - The reality is that in life we go through things
- Sometimes our baroness is a part of God's plan
 - The very thing you are thinking is often the thing God uses to make you great
 - The thing that makes you feel less is where God wants to use you
- I Samuel 1:6
 - Her rival bothered her to make her miserable because she couldn't reproduce
 - People try to be big by making others small
 - The other wife flaunted her success with her babies
 - Sometimes we can't discover our strengths until we come face to face with our weakness
 - She was miserable because the Lord closed her wombs
 - Just because you have a blessing in one area, doesn't mean there is a blessing in another
 - People envy the rich but that says that money is their personal idol
 - There are wealthy people but they can't be any happier than regular people
 - They may be blessed in one area but lacking in another
 - People's sense of self comes from the word of God and there's a stability in God. So they may lack in one area but be rich in God
 - Who's really the rich one?
 - Elkanah and Hannah kept going to church
 - We worry less, when we praise more
 - Peninnah kept tormenting Hannah and she had enough
- I Samuel 1:7
 - Year by year, Hannah went to church and wept and fasted.
 - Instead of having an altercation with Peninnah, Hannah gave her problems to the Lord
 - Elkanah asked Hannah why is she crying, and why is she miserable.
 - Sometimes even the love of your life can't solve all of your problems
 - The double portion in one area, doesn't always make up for the missing portion in another area
 - Sometimes the devil can get in your head and say don't press God about that, you have more in another area.

- But God wants to see us wholly and completely not just in the church areas but in every area in our lives
- After Pininnah, Elkanah and the rest of the family finished eating and drinking at Shiloh, Hannah arose.
 - She rose with a look of determination
 - God waits until you are sick and tired of being sick and tired
 - She knew God finally heard her and this time was different
- I Samuel 1:10
 - She was in bitterness of her soul and she prayed and wept
 - It was a very polite way to say that she got angry
 - Anger can be a healthy reaction
 - Ephesians 4:26, Be angry and do not sin
 - Don't stay angry too long
 - Don't waste your moments on self-pity
- I Samuel 1:11
 - She gets serious
 - She made a vow to God
 - You will never discover that God is all you need, until God is all you got. –adapted from Rick Warren
 - There is a fundamental missing ingredient with the moderns and contemporaries
 - We say God give me without any commitment to give back.
 - She humbled herself unto God and asked for a male child and she was specific.
 - Only specific prayers can receive specific answers
 - She said she will give him back to the Lord
 - And she will do it all the days of his life
 - We ask for things but sometimes it keeps us from God
 - She prayed sincerely and specifically, now she will pray sacrificially
 - She made a pledge to give back
 - If we want to be God like, we have to be able to give him our word
 - We need to be willing to make commitments to God
 - Our prayers aren't answered because it is about us
 - When pray that way our prayers will be answered
- I Samuel 1:12
 - It happened and she continued praying to the lord and Eli watcher her mouth
- I Samuel 1:13
 - Hannah spoke with her heart and only her lips moved, but she was silent
 - Sometimes we run out of words so we have to express ourselves in other ways
 - Eli thought she was drunk
 - Everyone is not always going to understand or get you
 - Don't go off
- I Samuel 1:14
 - He accuses her of being drunk
 - Eli asked how long will she be drunk and to put down her wine
 - We see that her husband couldn't help, her rival provoked her, the chief of priest did not understand her, but when you pray with sincerity, sacrificially, and specifically, what anyone else has to say doesn't matter
 - What He had to say did not matter

- I Samuel 1:17
 - Eli said go in peace
 - God got pass his human limitations and released a priestly blessing
 - Nobody is perfect only Jesus
 - Don't flip out if people don't get you at first. God can use those same people to bless you
 - You might burn a bridge that God wanted to use if you don't give them space to get to know you
- I Samuel 1:18
 - Hannah went her way and ate and was no longer said
 - She saw it before she saw it
 - She got it before she got it
 - Faith is knowing you got it before there is any natural evidence
- I Samuel 1:19
 - The next morning, they rose and worshipped before the Lord
 - Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah and the Lord remembered her
 - The blessings of the Lord will bless you in a lot of ways
 - The Lord remembered her
 - Be sincere, specific, be sacrificial
- I Samuel 2:21
 - Hannah conceived and bore 3 sons and 2 daughters
 - When she gave sacrificially to the Lord, God gave her back 5 times
 - In God's Kingdom, it's not what we keep, but what we are willing to give up that makes us rich