

Sunday Sermon Notes ***"When Life Goes Empty"***

Beautiful words of devotion and loyalty:
But not the words of a bride!

Promises to families of dysfunction:

God is working behind the scenes
People really can change
Grace is the most important ingredient

What happens when life goes empty?

When disaster strikes?
When all seems lost?
When hope is gone?

Naomi went from full to empty,
from "Pleasant" to "Bitter"

So what did Naomi do?

She was practical about her situation
She returned to her roots of faith
She continued to practice sacrificial love

God gave Naomi a Ruth who would "Be There"

Physically
Relationally
Spiritually
Permanently
Securely

When my life goes empty:

Lord, help me to be like Naomi

When your life goes empty:

Lord, help me to be like Ruth

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

Reviewing the Sermon:

Describe how either you or someone you know has experienced a time when life went empty. How well was this terrible time handled?

Pastor pointed out three things that Naomi did in the face of disaster. Which of these do you think most people struggle with the most?

Ruth made a commitment to "Be there" no matter what. Which of the ways of "Being there" do you find the most important? Which one is the hardest to fulfill?

Pastor pointed out that most of us do really well at the time of the crisis. It is after the crisis passes that we often most fail each other. What do you think we can do to keep us from doing this?

Bible Study: 1 Samuel 1:1-28, 2:18-21, 26

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

Today's Bible study focuses on a mother who made great sacrifices in motherhood. Our purpose is to learn from Hannah's example and apply the principles for life we can learn from her.

Read 1 Samuel 1: 1-8

As in last week's sermon, we are presented with a family in which there were two wives. Peninnah had children, but

Hannah had none. Why do you think having children was so important to Hannah?

How would describe the relationship that existed between Elkanah and each of his two wives. What about the relationship between the two wives? How well do you think Elkanah did in comforting Hannah?

Read 1 Samuel 1:10-20

What vow did Hannah make to the Lord? Why do you think Hannah was willing to make this promise? What does this tell you about what kind of person she was?

What does the Lord do for Hannah? What do you think about the name Hannah gave to her sons?

Read 1 Samuel 1:11-28

What does verse 22 tell you about Hannah's intentions? How do you think you would have responded to this situation? Why do you think her husband was so willing to go along with her plans?

What does Hannah actually do when it is time to present him to the Lord? What kind of mother do you think would be willing to do this? What are situations in which mothers may be required to do something like this today?

Read 1 Samuel 2:18-21

How does the Bible describe what Samuel is doing? What does his mother do for him? How does God bless Elkanah and Hannah for what they have done?

Read 1 Samuel 2:26

Where have you also heard a statement like this made? What do you know about who Samuel eventually becomes? How important was what his mother did in what Samuel became?

Prayer Time: Pray for mothers and their children.

Family Matters

May 11, 2008

Mothers Day

Ruth 1:16-17

"When Life Goes Empty"

Pastor Philip C. Rogers
Middletown
Church of the Nazarene
Middletown, Indiana

Master copy of notes and audio version of the sermon at
www.middlestownaz.com