

Standing Tall, Falling Hard

March 23, 2025 – Chapter Ten
Adult Bible Class

Chapter 10: A Study in Contrasts

Contrast #1: Hannah and Peninnah

TRUTH: _____

Peninnah

- Faithless and disobedient
- Provoked and irritated Hannah because of her empty womb
- Peninnah had a full house, but an empty heart
- Her husband loved Hannah more than her
- None of Peninnah's children were notable
- Instead of responding to God with gratitude for her children, she acted hatefully and created a rivalry

Hannah

- Poured her heart out in prayer to the LORD, trusting in His mercy
- Never retaliated against her rival
- Vowed she would give her son to serve the LORD if He provided
- God answered her prayer and gave her five more children after Samuel
- She made good on her vow through obedience (annual robes)
- Received the favor of her husband

Lessons

1. God _____ of His children.
2. _____ vs. _____—take inventory wisely.
3. Our actions toward others reveal our _____.

Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:37-40

4. _____ also reveal the true nature of the heart.
A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

James 3:6

Contrast #2: Eli and Samuel

TRUTH: _____

Eli

- Did not lead his family well
- “The word of God was rare in those days”
- His blindness indicative of his leadership of Israel & his family
- Failed to turn Israel to God in a time of battle
- Lost the Ark the 2nd time around
- Fell from a place of honor to disgrace

Samuel

- A child conceived by grace
- God “let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground”
- “All Israel recognized that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord”
- Spoke the truth to power as a boy
- Won the battle with the Philistines
- Rose from humble beginnings to a place of honor

Lessons

1. We will be _____ by God because of sin we know about but fail to restrain.
2. Failure to _____ the next generation is catastrophic.
3. *“Joshua son of Nun died at the age of 110. After that whole generation had been gathered to their ancestors, another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.”*

The Story, p. 103

4. God is _____ when He is used as a lucky charm or flashed as a badge.

Don't you see: It's not the cut of a knife that makes a Jew. You become a Jew by who you are. It's the mark of God on your heart, not of a knife on your skin, that makes a Jew. And recognition comes from God, not legalistic critics.

Romans 2:28-29

5. Your attitude toward the _____ of God reflects your attitude toward God.

Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Contrast #3: Saul and God

TRUTH: _____

Saul

- Impressive in the world's eyes
- Came from obscurity
- "He will take..." (p.135)
- It could have worked (p.140, 141)
- Fear makes you do stupid things
- Impetuous

God

- Impressed with non-conformity
- Part of the modus operandi
- God gives
- God is not single-threaded
- God is never late
- Patient and faithful

Lessons

1. Be careful _____ ...you may get it.
2. God can take an _____ and still use it as long as both the leadership and the people submit.
3. It's possible to rationalize disobedience with **anything**. _____ *always trumps worship.*

"Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as Lord, but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven. On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.'

Matthew 7:21-23

4. Focusing on your _____ almost always leads to trouble.

Discussion Questions

1. Do you consider yourself full or empty? Of the right things or the wrong things?
2. What religious props have you used in the past?
3. How certain can we be of things that we can't see?



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