

The Heart Ready To Respond

Intro: In two songs/prayers, Hannah's in the Old Testament and Mary in the New Testament, we get the sense of two women really in tune with a valid relationship with God. This evening we look at those renderings in an effort to better understand the response to Peter's sermon recorded in Acts 2.

1. Hannah's Prayer from I Samuel 2 – Remember events leading to the prayer (1 Sam. 1)
 - A. Rejoices in Salvation from God.
 - B. Acknowledges God's Holiness.
 - C. Arrogance does not work on God.
 - D. God humbles the proud and lifts the weak.
 - E. God is the sustainer of life on the earth.
 - F. The "saints" will be guarded.
 - G. The wicked and/or adversaries of God will be judged.

2. Mary in Luke 1:46-55 – The So-Called Magnificat (Compare with Hannah's)
 - A. Rejoice in God's Salvation.
 - B. God shows care for the lowly folks.
 - C. Holy is God's Name.
 - D. God extends mercy to those who fear him.
 - E. The proud are "scattered" by God. He exalts the lowly.
 - F. God helps those who are his people.
 - G. He has always remembered our "fathers".

3. Understanding the heart behind the 2 renderings, helps us to know why Peter's audience asked the question, "What shall we do?", rather than "What's wrong with you?"
 - A. Remember Hannah's closing remark in her prayer found in 1 Sam. 2:10.
 - B. What did Peter preach on that day as found in Acts 2?
 1. The event was a fulfillment of a promise made by God in Joel.
 2. King David spoke of the "anointed" ones victory over death.
 3. The one you killed was that same person, Lord and Christ.
 - C. Remember the principles seen through Hannah and Mary.
 - D. Why would the Acts 2 crowd be told "repent and let everyone of you be baptized"?

Conclusion: Two women living over 1000 years apart reveal the consistent picture of the one who has a solid understanding of what it means to be truly connected to God. It's easy to see that after Jesus had done his work of sacrifice that would affect man for all the years to come that the general principles seen in that relationship have never really changed. It is the heart that is always ready to respond to God.