

LONELY TOGETHER

I Samuel 1:1-16 with I Peter 3:7

**Today we'll look at the reality as well as the remedy
for being lonely together.**

I. THE SITUATION

A. ELKANAH'S TRAITS (3-8)

1. Dedicated to the Lord (3)
2. Devoted to Hannah (4-5)
3. Dumbfounded about Hannah's needs (8)

B. HANNAH'S TROUBLES (6-16)

1. Maligned by her adversary (6-7)
2. Miserable in her childlessness (8)
3. Misunderstood by her priest (9-16)

II. THE SUMMARY

A. ELKANAH IS CLUELESS

1. Inactive when it came to silencing Peninnah's insults (6-7)
 - He passively lets his wife be verbally attacked
2. Insensitive about Hannah's barrenness (8)
 - In fact, in affect he turns from her troubles to focus on himself
3. Unsupportive when Hannah retreats to pray (9)
 - Why does he not go with her?

B. HANNAH IS HOPELESS

1. Desperately hurting from Peninnah (6-7)
2. Terribly disturbed about Elkanah (8)
3. Deeply disappointed with Eli (12-14)

C. THEY ARE LONELY TOGETHER

1. Their pain
 - a. To him: She's always crying
 - b. To her: He's never caring
2. Their partnership
 - They share a kitchen table, an address and an occasional kiss ... but they are living overwhelmed by loneliness!

III. THE SOLUTION - I Peter 3:7

A. HE NEEDS TO LEARN ...

1. To live with his wife
 - He needs to be in sync with his wife
2. To understand his wife
 - Develop insight into what makes her tick, ticked and tickled!

B. SHE NEEDS TO LEAN ...

1. Because she is weaker
 - She needs someone she can trust to prop her up
2. Because she is honorable
 - She needs to know that she is her husband's top priority

C. THEY NEED TO PRAY

1. When he is ignorant and she feels isolated their prayers are hindered
 - When our partnering isn't right our praying won't be either
2. If he is trying to learn and she is trying to lean they have much to pray about
3. The bonding of their souls will bind them closer to each other in every way

CONCLUSION:

Leave loneliness behind and discover the joy of truly living and loving together!