

May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>

## **This Problem Has Potential**

In this lesson you will learn the three ways that problems can teach us in life.

**Intro:** One of the greatest enemies to success is comfort. What if the pain in your life served as a catalyst for you to rise up in greatness? In Samuel chapter 1 we read about Elkanah's two wives; Hannah & Peninnah. Hannah was barren while Peninnah had one child after the other. After Peninnah kept provoking Hannah day after day, then Hannah sought God's face with diligence and weeping. Hannah's rival in her own household drove her to her knees in prayer to God. The crises in our lives can drive us to either depression or to dependence on God.

### **I. Problems are an Opportunity for us to Grow**

A. Problems push us out of our comfort zone. They push us out of our complacency and out of our normal routine. What used to work last year will not work in this season of problems. The problem will force us to adapt to this new normal. We have to be willing to learn to deal with new challenges and difficulties. We can navigate our way through unfamiliar territory by learning to depend on God and learn to use what God has placed in us to overcome these circumstances (Prov 3:5-6). It's time we learn how to live by faith and not in our own understanding.

### **II. Problems will Push us toward our Purpose**

A. God is more committed to you fulfilling your purpose than He is to you feeling comfortable. God will allow you to face problems, to be provoked, and to be frustrated. He allows this because He knows this is the only way to get you off of the couch and into your calling. You may never discover what you are called and gifted to do unless you face a problem so unbearable and frustrating, that it leads you to action. Use that trouble in your life as transportation to fulfilling your destiny. You were called for such a time as this (Es 4:14).

### **III. Problems invite us to Partner with God**

A. When insurmountable challenges and problems arise in our lives, we must switch from striving to partnering with God. We will not be able to figure out how to overcome these obstacles in our own strength or in our own might. God is longing for us to turn from ourselves, and place our complete dependence on Him. As we partner with Him, He extends His grace to help us in our time of need (Heb 4:16). From the beginning of the Bible all the way to the end, God is partnering with various people to accomplish His will in the Earth. Why not receive the invitation from the Father to partner with Him in your life today?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Do you see your problems as dead ends or as learning opportunities?
2. Do you resist the challenges that problems bring or embrace them with God's help?
3. Are you relying on God or your own fortitude to bring you through your problems?