

HANNAH: THE IDEAL MOTHER  
(Good Sermon for Mother's Day)

Intro:

I. Of all the holidays we celebrate in our nation, Mother's Day is one of my favorite. Good mothers are special and the longer you have them with you the more special they become. I think it says something good about our nation when we still mark a spot on our calendar to pause and honor our mothers.

II. But people's view of motherhood in our generation is changing...

A. First, whereas childlessness was once the exception and even a disgrace, many couples are choosing not to have children. Many women view children as a stumblingblock to their careers and a hinderance to the materialistic pursuits. (While I mourn this covetousness and materialism perhaps it's good that these people choose to be childless).

B. Secondly, I deeply regret that motherhood seems to be viewed these days as more of a biological function than a lifestyle. It seems that some women who do want to have children do so more to prove that it is biologically possible rather than through a commitment nurture and love a child and reap the fulfillment which that brings.

C. These changes are tragic. Tragic because of what motivates them and tragic because of what they produce.

III. I think it is imperative that we get back to the Biblical model of motherhood. The minds of our women needed to be molded not by the world, but by the word of God. As men and women we need to understand the roles which God wants us to fill in society and find joy, contentment, and fulfillment in these roles knowing that we are trying to please God. So let's talk about motherhood for a few minutes.

IV. Let's open our Bibles together to the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 1. Here we are introduced to a woman by the name of Hannah.

A. Her name means "favored." And, without a doubt, she was favored in the eyes of her husband as well as in the eyes of her Lord.

B. In think Hannah presents to us some important qualities of a godly woman, particularly a godly mother.

C. Let's read her story together and then discuss why she was favored by the Lord... 1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:2,18- 21

Discussion...

I. SHE MARRIED WISELY... v. 1-2. Hannah was married a man named Elkanah. There were some important things we need to observe about her marriage him...

A. He was one of God's people... 1:3,21

1. So many times great problems develop in marriages where one of the spouses is not a Christian. It is hard for them to walk together.

B. He provided for her needs... 1:4-5,8

1. Young lades, look for a man who realizes that it is his responsibility to care for you and your family... 1 Tim. 5:8

C. He was a loving, non-bitter husband... 1:5

1. Lesser men might have been made bitter by the fact that their wife could not have children. This has caused the breakup of many marriages. But this was not the case with Elkanah. He didn't chide her imperfections. He loved her although "the Lord had closed her womb."

2. You can see the difference between his attitude and that of Peninnah, Hannah's rival... 1:6

3. Elkanah is a beautiful example of what Paul taught in... Col. 3:19

D. He didn't compare her with other women. He could have made constant comparisons with Peninnah, but he didn't.

E. Men, we can learn some valuable lessons from Elkanah.

II. SHE WAS NOT ONE TO RETALIATE...

A. The picture here is of a woman, tormented by the constant persecutions of her rival, but who refused to take matters into her own hands. In great

distress, rather than retaliate, she turns to the Lord...vs. 10

B. In this sense she was like the Lord... 1 Pet. 2:21-23 She, like Jesus, left it all in the hands of God.

C. Sometimes we find ourselves in similar circumstances. Feeling inadequate and tormented by others who remind you of your failures. The easy thing to do is lash out at those who mistreat you...but listen to the words of the Lord... Rom. 12:17-21

III. SHE WAS AWARE THAT CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM GOD... v. 11

A. David would later say, "Behold, children are a gift of the Lord; The fruit of the womb is a reward." Psa. 127:3

B. Illustration: Let me ask you ladies to imagine how you would feel if you carefully selected a beautiful dress as a gift to someone and you found out later they despised your gift and cut it to pieces.

1. Now imagine how God feels when a person aborts a child! First, it's an insult to God, the Giver. Secondly, it's murder.

2. But even further, it indicates that children are viewed as a burden rather than a precious gift. Listening to some, you get the idea that their children are only in the way of their pursuits, an obstacle to obtaining their own selfish desires.

C. Certainly Hannah knew the preciousness of a child and her disposition shows just how important our children should be to us. May God help us to love our children.

IV. SHE WAS A WOMAN OF PRAYER... 1:10

A. When life knocked her on her knees, she realized she was in the perfect position to pray...1:10-11

1. She turned to the only one who could convert a woman into a mother.

2. She had to let go of her own feelings and let God take control of the situation.

3. Hear her describe her own prayer (1:15), "I have poured out my soul before the Lord."

B. But her prayer was not just in the difficult times; she remembered the Lord in times of prosperity... 2:1-2

1. Many turn to God in bad times and then forget him in the good. Not Hannah.

2. And many fail to thank God for His blessings ... Rom. 1:21. Not Hannah.

C. Another thing I learn from Hannah is that she saw the value of silent prayer. We are never in a circumstance where we cannot silently pray to God.

V. SHE WAS A WOMAN OF MORAL PURITY...

A. Read... 1:12-16

B. First of all, let it be noted that she did not resent the rebuke and admonishing of Eli, even though he was wrong.

1. Let us also consider the brother or sister who admonishes us the best friend we've got.

C. She was morally pure, not a wicked woman. She was a woman who wanted righteous and a child more than anything else.

VI. SHE NURTURED HER SON... 1:19-23

- A. Isn't this the will of God? Isn't this the ideal?  
For each mother to assume the role of a mother and care for  
that child personally.
- B. Hannah did not take the child to someone else to nurse  
and care for it. She did that! Isn't that what God desires  
... 1 Tim. 5:14; Tit. 2:4-5
- C. She even stayed behind to care for her child while  
Elkanah made the long trim to make his yearly sacrifice.
- D. Mothers have the greatest role on the face of the earth.  
They shape the little hearts and minds of tomorrow's men and women.

"THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE RULES THE WORLD"

by Glen Campbell

He got here red and wrinkled, scared and crying,  
Then she took him up and help him to her breast,  
And he sure was glad to get what Mama offered,  
Then he went to sleep and put his fears to rest.

It didn't seem to matter what he needed,  
He could always count on Mama to supply,  
And regardless of the sleep she might be losing,  
He always found a twinkle in her eye.

She taught him all the attributes of greatness,  
Things she knew he couldn't learn away from home,  
And by the time she wore the cover off her Bible,  
Her hair was gray and her little man was gone.

Chorus

There ought'a be a Hall of Fame for Mama's  
Creations most unique and precious pearl.  
Heaven help us all always to remember.  
That the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

1. Perhaps the neglect of this God-given  
responsibility is why we have bloodshed in our streets.

V. SHE GAVE HER CHILD TO THE LORD... 1:11,24-28

- A. This is the duty of every mother. If we do not intend  
to give them back to God, we should never ask for them.
1. We need to realize that once God has given us  
our children, that we are dealing with souls that will  
live forever in heaven or hell. As parents, we most  
likely will make the difference.
- B. The duty of every mother (and father too, for that matter)  
is to pass on your faith... 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:14-15 (Eph. 6:4)
- C. Certainly, Hannah told little Samuel all about God's  
people and prepared him for his future service to God.  
What are you teaching you children??

VI. SHE PREPARED TO LET GO...

A. Without a doubt, as she stayed behind and nursed Samuel while Elkanah made the trip to Shiloh she must have thought, "One day I will make the trip and little Samuel will not come back with me."

B. Like Mary, she must have kept "these things in her heart".

C. It is always hard to let go, even a little...

1. It's hard to let your child go for that first day at school...

2. It's hard to let them go on that first date...

3. I'm learning how hard it is to let your child go into the adult world of marriage...

D. But only in letting go do you know how well you did your job...

1. It's just like flying a kite, the time will come when you will have to let out some string and it's painful because the strings attached to your

kite are your heartstrings. Fibers of love embedded within our hearts and attached to our offspring...

2. Erma Bombeck says of this effort:

"You spend a lifetime trying to get them off the ground. You run with them until you are breathless...they crash...they hit the rooftop...you patch and comfort, adjust and teach. You

watch them lifted by the wind and assure them that someday they'll fly.

Finally, they are airborne: they need more string and you keep letting it out. But with each twist of the ball of twine, there is sadness that goes with joy. The kite becomes so distant, and you know it won't be long before that beautiful creature will snap the lifeline that binds you together and will soar as it is meant to soar, free and alone. Only then do you know that you did your job.

E. When they leave, we can still make contributions to their lives (like Hannah making Samuel's yearly coats).

But they still have to fly own their own.

F. Many marriages have been interrupted and disturbed because Mama and Daddy wouldn't let their children "leave and cleave" (2:24).

Conclusion...

I. When Hannah finally let Samuel fly on his own, he soared beautifully. His life honored his mother...

A. He was a priest...

B. He was a prophet...

C. He was a judge...

D. Two books of the Bible bear his name...

II. And surely, he rose up and called his Mama "blessed"... Prov. 31:28

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