

THE MOTHER WHOSE FAITH CHANGED THE COURSE OF A NATION

1 SAMUEL 1:1-28; 2:18-21

Text:

Introduction:

The prophet Samuel is one of the brightest lights in the Old Testament. He was the guiding force in Israel, surpassing the leadership of its kings. God used him in a mighty way for many years, keeping Israel closer to God, and therefore blessed in many ways.

It is significant that this book, which describes the early history of Israel, begins with the story of a mother who desperately wants a child.

1. HANNAH WAS A LOVING MOTHER

A. She demonstrated love for her enemy
1 Sam. 1:6-8

1 Samuel 1:6-8

⁶And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her

womb. ⁷ And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. ⁸ Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weapest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

Obviously, she did not complain to her husband Elkanah - v. 8, or he would have known why she was upset.

B. She demonstrated love for God

1 Sam. 1:7, 11

1 Samuel 1:7

⁷ And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

1 Samuel 1:11

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1. She confided in Him that which she did not confide in others.

2. She trusted God knowing He is in total control of all things, as illustrated in her song of thanksgiving in the next chapter (1 Samuel 2).

3. She loved Him enough to give Him her only son to live in God's house, for God's purposes, all his life.

2. HANNAH WAS A FAITHFUL MOTHER

A. She was faithful to God
1 Sam. 1:7

1 Samuel 1:7

⁷ And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

She went up to the Temple every year for the annual sacrifice.

B. She was faithful to her family
1 Sam. 2:18-21

1 Samuel 2:18-21

¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰ And Eli

blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. ²¹ And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

In spite of her difficulties with Penninah, her inability to communicate with her husband, and the absence of her son, she remained faithful to them all. She never react wrongly with Penninah, she didn't fault Elkanah; she showed love to them, and every year she brought a new coat for little Samuel.

3. HANNAH WAS A PRAYING MOTHER

A. She shared herself with her God
1 Sam. 1:11-15

1 Samuel 1:11-15

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. ¹² And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been

drunken. ¹⁴ And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. ¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

She poured out her heart to God, holding nothing back.

B. She shared her only son with God

1 Sam. 1:11, 22-28

1 Samuel 1:11

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:22-28

²² But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever. ²³ And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. ²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one

ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. ²⁵ And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. ²⁶ And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: ²⁸ Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

She obviously loved her son, but she loved God more.

Close:

What can we learn from Hannah?

1. Don't give up when you pray

You may be praying for your son or daughter in a time of difficulty---don't give up!

You may be having difficulty with a wife or husband---don't give up! You want God's blessing for you and your family---don't give up!

2. Seek God's will for your life

Hannah loved God enough to give Him her only begotten son; cp. John 3:16 - God loved you enough that He gave His only begotten Son!

3. Give your children to God

You'll never be able to watch every move they make--- let God do that. He's the perfect parent and certainly wants what's best.

She knew that, and gave Him to God for all his life.