

## A Mother's Burden; 1 Samuel 1:21-22

- I. Parenting
  - A. As parents, we all want our children to grow up and be productive members of society.
  - B. We spend 18 years training them.
    - i. They spend 12 years in school (sometimes longer).
    - ii. We know that our time with them is limited, so we strive to teach them everything we can.
  - C. Hannah had even less time.
- II. Hannah
  - A. We remember the story of Hannah.
    - i. Her husband had two wives, her and Peninnah.
    - ii. Hannah was barren, but Peninnah had children.
    - iii. Peninnah would provoke and irritate Hannah because she was barren.
    - iv. Having children was considered a sign of God's favor.
    - v. She prayed in the temple for a child.
    - vi. Eli, the High Priest, thought Hannah was drunk and rebuked her.
    - vii. God granted Hannah her prayer, and she bore Samuel.
    - viii. Hannah gave Samuel back to God (physically).
  - B. Hannah, as a wife and mother, had such faith in God!
- III. Seek
  - A. Hannah sought God in Prayer
    - i. Her prayers are earnest and fervent; she lays it all out to God.
    - ii. Listen to some of Hannah's prayers.
    - iii. 1 Samuel 1:9–11 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. <sup>10</sup> She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she vowed a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."
      - a. She considered being barren an affliction.
      - b. She told Eli she was praying out of her great anxiety and vexation.
      - c. She was willing to give her son back to God just for the blessing of giving birth.
    - iv. 1 Samuel 2:1-10.
  - B. We would do well, as parents, to look deeply at this prayer.
    - i. We can see Hannah's praise, "My heart exults in the LORD."
    - ii. We can see Hannah's trust, "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones."
    - iii. Hannah's faith in God is such that she trusts Him to take care of her completely.
  - C. God covets our prayers; He wants us to seek Him.

- i. Paul tells Timothy (1 Timothy 2:8) that in every place, we should pray.
- ii. We are to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- iii. Philippians 4:6 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- iv. Mary's prayer in Luke 1:46–47 (ESV) starts, <sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,"

D. A mother can teach us a thing or two about seeking God.

#### IV. Trust

A. Hannah shows her faith in God through her trust.

- i. She has longed for this child.
- ii. She has suffered for this child.
- iii. Even though it must have been heart-wrenching, she left Samuel at the temple.
- iv. She promised God to leave the boy at the temple (give him back to God).
- v. She trusted that God's plan for Samuel was better than her own.

B. Do we trust God like Hannah trusted God?

- i. How many of us would have gone through with that promise and left our only child (3 years old) at the temple to be raised by the high priest?
- ii. Sometimes we don't even trust God to give us an answer to our prayer, so we make up our own!
  - a. We ask Him, then either don't want to wait or don't like His answer.
  - b. We take things into our own hands and rationalize our actions.

C. God has promised us eternal life for those who trust Him.

D. Hebrews 11:6 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

E. A mother can teach us a thing or two about trusting God.

#### V. Praise

A. Hannah praised God in all circumstances.

- i. We read her prayer in 1 Samuel 2.
- ii. This prayer was right after she left her son at the temple.
- iii. She says, "My heart exults in the LORD" (verse 1).
- iv. She says, "There is none holy like the LORD" (verse 2).
- v. She says, "He will guard the feet of His faithful ones" (verse 9).

B. No matter what we have gone through or are going through, we give thanks to God.

- i. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 (ESV) <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- ii. Luke tells us of an event where Jesus cleansed ten lepers in a village between Samaria and Galilee.
- iii. These ten lepers cried out to Jesus, have mercy on us.
- iv. Jesus healed them and told them to show themselves to the priests.

v. Luke 17:15–19 (ESV) <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

- C. Whatever circumstance you find yourself in, it is no surprise to God.
  - D. God tells us to give thanks in all circumstances.
  - E. A mother can teach us a few things about praise.
- VI. A Mother's Burden
- A. We could learn a lot from the actions and attitudes of these biblical women.
  - B. To seek God.
  - C. To trust God.
  - D. To Praise God.