

Sermon Title: "Hannah's Prayer"

Edited: October 8, 2016

Preached: October 9, 2016

Vessel: Russ LaFlamme

Scripture Reference: **1 Samuel 1:10-20; 24,-2:2**

Theme: **Hannah** prayed that God would grant her a son promising to give him back to the Lord;

Purpose: **Today we learn that a child dedicated to the Lord has great potential and promise.**

---

**I) Introduction:**

Scripture Reading is: **1 Samuel 1:10-20; 24-2:2**

**A) The Setting:**

**1) We have been learning about Prayer all summer.**

(a) The last few weeks we have been looking at some of the prayers of the Bible.

(b) How fitting on this day where we gather to dedicate my Grandson Xavier that we should look at the prayer of Hannah.

**2) Hannah lived in the 12 century B.C.**

(a) A Hebrew, living in a society where to be childless (*especially of male children*) was to be looked upon as shameful . . .

(b) For it was thought that if you could not conceive, **God had not chosen to Bless you.**

**3) Hannah was married to Elkanah, who while compassionate in his love for Hannah was not too bright a man.**

(a) How do I know that he wasn't very bright . . .

(b) **Because he was married to two wives.**

(i) His second wife was Peninnah who we are told had sons and daughters.

(ii) As you can imagine she taunted her rival wife, Hannah.

(c) **Every year the whole family would go up to the temple in Shiloh to offer sacrifices to the Lord.**

(i) Elkanah would give a portion to Peninnah to offer.

(ii) And a double portion to Hannah to offer because we are told he loved her.

**4) Many women face the same problem that Hannah face in having difficulty getting pregnant.**

(a) **Hannah joins a long line of other BIBLE women of faith who battled barrenness:**

(i) Sarah (Abraham's wife),

(ii) Rebekah (Isaac's wife),

(iii) Rachel (Jacob's wife),

(iv) Ruth (Boaz's wife), and

(v) Elizabeth (John the Baptist's mother).

(b) In Scripture most of the childless women are very righteous women, who eventually became matriarchs of the faith.

(c) It is worth noting that many of those who easily conceived children were often wicked women out of the will of God.

**5) So while the people of this time had the wrong idea about God somehow punishing them by not granting Children when they wanted . . .**

(a) It is not true that this was a judgment from God.

(b) However, this did not help Hannah for she **felt spiritually disturbed, socially disgraced, and emotionally depressed.**<sup>1</sup>

**6) Many women feel this way when they have trouble having children.**

(a) So it is good to keep this in mind . . .

(b) And to trust that God acts in His timing for your best.

(c) If we are a child of God, HE knows when we are ready to have children.

(d) And God always wants His best for His Children.

**7) On one such trip to the Temple we find Hannah sitting in the Temple by herself pouring her heart out to God.**

(a) Only she is not as alone as she thinks . . .

(b) For Eli the Priest is sitting on a chair by the Temple door.

---

<sup>1</sup>. Parts of this message were adapted from a message entitled; Hannah: *A Model for Motherhood*" by Brian Bill from sermoncentral.com

(c) Eli probably was just keeping an eye on things to make sure no one does something they are not suppose to do in the temple.

8) **And so, this brings us to our scripture reading; if you want to follow along in our Bibles, turn to 1 Samuel 1:10-20; 24-2:2.**

## B) Sermon Prayer

### C) (The Hook)

1) **Hannah dedicated her child to the Lord by giving Him to the Priest to raise him.**

(a) But is this what a baby dedication is about?

(b) Does this mean God wants us to give our children to the pastor to raise?

(c) Please don't!

2) **While I am a proud grandfather of this child here today I can assure you that I would rather not have to be the parent.**

(a) I loved being a parent; but there is a reason that God gives children to young people.

(b) In rare cases Grandparents will step up to raise a child and God will give them the strength and blessings to do so; but this is not normal.

3) **Most Grandparents I have talked to enjoy having their Grandchildren come to visit.**

(a) And they if they are honest will admit . . . they are also happy to see them pile in the car and see the taillights going down the road at the end of the stay.

(b) It is a lot of work and confusion and older people look forward to their peace.

4) **Back to Hannah now who was fulfilling a promise she made to God to give the child back to the Lord if God would grant her request.**

(a) It wasn't that she didn't love the child or want the child; but that she was honoring her promise.

(b) Her son, Samuel, would become one of God's greatest Priests anointing Israel's first and second Kings (Saul & David).

(c) God had special plans for her son and I am sure Hannah was a great influence on him as he grew.

TS: **But there are a few quick points I want to make about Hannah's Prayer here . . .**

## II) Body: (Key Points)

A) Key Point #1: **God Hears Our Sincere Prayers**

1) **Hannah had some problems but she didn't shut down or lash out at those around her.**

(a) She expressed her faith in prayer.

(b) **According to Psalm 119:71, God uses our problems to get our attention and to teach us: "It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees."**

(c) Our problems should drive us to prayer.

2) **Hannah's weeping led to worship as her tears mingled with her prayers.**

(a) When tears are in our eyes, our prayer comes from the heart.

(b) Hannah was definitely broken and God hears a broken and contrite heart.

(c) Hannah is appealing to God's power and authority,

(d) Because she knows there is nothing she can do.

3) **As part of her prayer, she makes a vow that if God will grant her a son, she will dedicate him back to the Lord for his entire life.**

(a) Her son would become a Levitical priest, serving in the temple as a Nazirite.

(b) **A Nazirite was bound by a vow to be set apart to the Lord's service.**

4) **Having worked through years of barrenness, and the problems that this caused, Hannah now realizes a very important truth:**

(a) *Children are not just for parents; they are for the Lord.*

(b) We are all created for God's glory and we are to glorify God.

(c) Nothing we have really belongs to us anyway, that includes our children.

(d) They're on loan to us; it's our job to parent and train them to do God's work.

5) **It's significant that verse 12 says, "she kept on praying to the Lord."**

(a) This wasn't just a quick dart prayer done one time.

- (b) This was a repeated request, bathed in tears.
- 6) **Her quiet prayer had an unfortunate consequence when Eli, the priest, accused her of being drunk . . .**
  - (a) When she had the opportunity to explain herself, Eli answered in verse 17: **"Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of Him."**
  - (b) **This benediction was a huge blessing to Hannah.**
    - (i) He didn't know what she was praying about,
    - (ii) But as high priest, gave his "amen" to her request.
- 7) **Her whole demeanor changed in verse 18 when we read that "...she went away and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast."**
  - (a) This is really cool; after spending time in prayer, her face was no longer sad.
  - (b) She had left her concerns with the God and now she was experiencing His "peace."
- 8) **Never underestimate the power of prayer.**
  - (a) Susannah Wesley spent one hour each day praying for her 17 children.
  - (b) In addition, she took each child aside for a full hour each week to discuss spiritual matters.
  - (c) Is it any wonder that two of her sons, Charles and John, were used mightily in the spiritual revivals of both England and America?

TS: **Next . . .**

- B) **Key Point #2: God Honors Our Sincere Prayers**
  - 1) **After Samuel was born, Elkanah went once again to Shiloh in order to worship.**
    - (a) Hannah decided to not go until Samuel was weaned, which would have been at around three or four-years-old.
    - (b) **She dedicated herself to her child, nursing and nurturing him,**
      - (i) Knowing that when he is able to eat on his own,
      - (ii) She "...**will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always.**"
    - (c) Many people make promises to God, only to forget them once time passes.
    - (d) **Not so with Hannah**; she fully intended to keep her promise because she knew that Samuel did not really belong to her anyway.
  - 2) **Hannah not only dedicated herself to her child, she dedicated her child to the Lord.**
    - (a) She then brings Samuel to the house of the Lord and says in **verse 28**: **"So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD..."**
    - (b) While she gave Samuel to God, she never bailed on her responsibility.
    - (c) Look at **2:19**: **"Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice."**
  - 3) **Verse 28 ends with a glimpse into young Samuel's heart: "And he worshiped the LORD there."**
    - (a) Even at a young age, Samuel was able to worship.
    - (b) Where do you think he learned how to do this?
    - (c) Hannah no doubt took the instructions of **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** seriously: **"These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."**

TS: **Third . . .**

- C) **Key Point #3: God Honors Our Sincere Dedication**
  - 1) **Verse 19 tells us that once again they got up early the next morning and worshipped before the Lord.**
    - (a) This was their practice, not something they did just once in awhile.

- (b) Then . . . they went back home.
- 2) **A short time later, Hannah conceived and give birth to Samuel.**
  - (a) His name sounds like the Hebrew word for "**heard of God.**"
  - (b) Every time she said his name she was reminded of his origin and destiny.
- 3) **I want to be careful here.**
  - (a) Just because Hannah's prayers for a son were answered, that doesn't necessarily mean that you will be given a child because you prayed for one.
  - (b) But you will receive God's provision, one way or another.
  - (c) He loves to give good gifts to His children according to **Matthew 7:11**: "**how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!**"
- 4) **I read that one out of six women who want to have a baby cannot conceive.**
  - (a) God answered Hannah's prayer but not just so she could have a baby.
  - (b) God allowed a time of barrenness in Hannah's life to bring an even greater blessing than she could ever imagine.

TS: **In Conclusion we have learned . . .**

### **III) Conclusion (Life Application)**

- A) First, that you are of great worth in God's sight whether or not you have a child.**
  - 1) Lift up your head and realize that God loves you for who you are, not for what you do.
  - 2) God understands your sorrow and your pain and He'll meet you right where you are.
- B) Second lesson from the life of Hannah's Prayer is that it held great promise and potential that was beyond anything she could have imagined.**
  - 1) If we want our kids and Grand kids to learn about God, and to love Him with all they've got . . . **it's first got to be real in our life.**
  - 2) **Ill. One Sunday after a Child Dedication service a young family was driving away from church after the dedication of their baby;**
    - (a) Little Johnny, the older brother, cried all the way home in the back seat of the car.
    - (b) His mother asked him three times what was wrong.
    - (c) Finally, the boy replied, "**That pastor said he wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home . . . but I want to stay with you guys!**"
  - 3) **If we want our kids and grand kids to be brought up in a Christian home, we need to make sure that Christ is at home in our heart.**
    - (a) If He is, then we can invest our life and trust God enough to allow us to give our children back to the Lord . . . after all, they belong to Him anyway.
    - (b) This doesn't mean giving them to the church to raise; but trusting God to help along with the help of His church.
    - (c) It is never too late; it doesn't matter how old they are; we can still pray and give them over to the Lord.
  - 4) **Let us Pray!**

**If dedication is done earlier; do Closing Hymn & Prayer here.**

### **Baby Dedication Introduction:**

It's exciting whenever a new child enters a family. **There's no greater moment when parents sense that children are a gift from God.** In these joyful moments, pastors and in this case me as one of the Grandparents, have the privilege of sharing how parents can express their full appreciation to God through a baby dedication. **While some Christian ministers baptize babies, we in the Baptist faith believe that FAITH is a personal decision; one that each person must make on their own."**

Dedicating a child acknowledges God's sovereignty not only over the child, but also over Mom and Dad. Parents present their child before God and His people asking for grace and wisdom in carrying out their responsibilities. **Invite Parents, Child and Grandparents down front.**

**Instructions:** *With the pastor standing front and center in the sanctuary, the father should stand immediately to the pastor's right, with Mom next to Dad. Grandparents should stand to the pastor's left.*

*Have mom hold the baby as the family comes forward. During the service, the wife will pass the child to the father for the vow of dedication; the father holding the child during this time symbolizes that the husband is the family's spiritual head. Afterwards, the father is then able to pass the baby to the pastor for the prayer of dedication.*

**Be sure to recognize everyone who stands before the church.**

We (GRANDPARENTS), are very proud of our Grandchild and also (JULIE and JAY); we trust that the step of faith you're taking today will make (XAVIOR) one day proud of your actions."

### Service of Dedication

Children are a gift from God. **Psalm 127:3** proclaims that "***Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from Him.***" As believers we are called to recognize that children belong first and foremost to God. God in his goodness gives children as gifts to parents. They not only have the awesome responsibility of caring for this gift, but also the wonderful privilege of enjoying the gift. Because children belong to God and are given by HIS grace as gifts to parents, it is only proper and appropriate that children be dedicated back to God.

We learned today **1 Samuel 1** that Hannah presented her son Samuel to the Lord. In **Luke 2:22** we read that Mary and Joseph brought their baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem in order to present him before the Lord.

In the same way, (JULIE and JAY BICKFORD) today bring their (SON/XAVIOR BRUCE BICKFORD), presenting first themselves and then their (SON/XAVIOR) before the Lord our God. Accompanying them in making this commitment are the Grandparents (RANDY and MARCIA BICKFORD, myself, RUSS and DEBBIE LAFLAMME). And witnessing this as well is (MANY OTHER AUNTS, UNCLES, and the GREAT GRANDPARENTS who are MARCIA's parents).

(JULIE AND JAY), I call your attention to the commands of God recorded in Holy Scripture. **Deuteronomy 6:4-7** which reads:

***"Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on their children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."***

**Ephesians 6:4** says: "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*"

God's instructions are plain.

(JULIE AND JAY), love God and will teach (XAVIOR) to do the same. As you love God and one another, you will model before (XAVIOR) a wonderful love for God that he will want for himself.

(JULIE AND JAY), by coming forward before God and His people, do you hereby declare your desire to dedicate yourselves and your (SON/XAVIOR) to the Lord? If so, please respond by saying "we do." ("We do.")

Having come freely, I ask now that you enter into the following commitment in the presence of God and his people (*Wife hands child to husband as a sign of his spiritual headship in the family*). So that (XAVIOR) may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you (JULIE AND JAY) promise by God's help and in partnership with God's church, to provide (XAVIOR) a Christian home of love and peace, to raise him in the truth of our Lord's instruction and discipline. ("We do.")

Now, I ask that the church to make a promise as well. There's an old proverb that says "*it takes a village to raise a child*." Parents have the first responsibility. But parents need the help and support of the community. So I direct my questions now to the church and those present in this church today, Would you please stand?

Having come freely to be a part of this community today, I ask now that you make the following commitment to those who stand before you: So that (XAVIOR) may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you promise by God's help, to be faithful in your calling as members of the body of Christ, to help (JULIE AND JAY) be faithful to God, and to help teach and train (XAVIOR) in the ways of the Lord. If you accept this responsibility, please respond by saying "we do."

(Dad hands child to pastor for prayer of dedication)

**(Presentation of Certificate and Gift)**

**Closing Hymn**