

Mother's Day 2020

5/10/2020

Faith and Motherhood

1 Samuel 1:1-11

I. Introduction:

A. Celebration of Mothers

1. No other God given position of influence has more power than that of motherhood.
2. Mother bears a child for 9 months & with great pain brings him or her into the world.
3. Mother loves & nurtures the infant as God created her to do. She lovingly calms the fearful child, brings peace to the troubled child, & encouragement to the defeated child.
4. It is a mother whose influence is the first to move a child to goodness rather than evil.

B. William Ross Wallace

1. William Ross Wallace (1819-1881) wrote a poem in honor of mothers titled "***THE HAND THAT ROCKS THE CRADLE IS THE HAND THAT RULES THE WORLD.***"
2. The message of this poem is biblically accurate and appropriate for our thoughts today.

II. Faith and Motherhood (1 Samuel 1:1-3)

- *Hannah, an O.T. saint, trusted God in all the challenges of her marriage & childbearing.*

A. Domestic circumstances

- *We are introduced to the circumstances of Hannah's life.*

1. – Elkanah

- a. Elkanah, her husband, was a wealthy man who feared and worshipped Jehovah God.
- b. Embracing his responsibility as a husband & father, he brought his entire family to the annual worship and feast of the Lord.
- c. Application: Men have the same responsibility today to lead their homes to follow & worship the Lord. There's no greater responsibility than to live out a godly example.

2. – Polygamy

- a. Elkanah had more than one wife, he had two. (Polygamy)
- b. Polygamy was not legally forbidden in the O. T. culture, but it wasn't God's design.
- c. God's design for marriage from the beginning has always been one man and one woman united in marriage for life.
- d. All biblical cases of polygamy suffered difficulty for going outside of God's design.
- e. Great O. T. saints, Abraham, David, Solomon, all suffered tragedy due to polygamy.
- f. Elkanah suffered discord in his home as well.

3. – Hannah was barren.

- a. Because Hannah is listed first, before Peninnah, it's likely that she was the first wife.
- b. Maybe because the 1st wife was barren the husband took another wife to have an heir
- c. Peninnah had children and Hannah had none.

III. Family worship (1 Samuel 1:4-7)

- *Hannah's story unfolds as the family attended the annual worship & feast unto the Lord.*

A. Elkanah gave portions to his wives.

1. Struggle in Elkanah's home is evident by the details concerning portions at the feast.
2. A portion of the meat offering was allowed consumed by the one bringing the offering.
3. Elkanah would distribute portions of the meat to his family.

4. A wife was given a portion that would not only feed her, but all her children as well.
5. Therefore, Peninnah would have normally received the greater portion, because she had children to feed while Hannah had none.
6. But Elkanah gave Hannah the greater portion because he loved her.

B. Retaliation

1. This seemingly unjust favoritism did not go unnoticed by Peninnah.
2. Peninnah provoked Hannah concerning the fact that she had no children.
3. She pressed her advantage in the marriage because she could give Elkanah children.
4. Animosity between them was so great Hannah couldn't sit w/ family & eat at the feast.
5. Her heart was broken over her barrenness and the abuse by Peninnah.

C. The cause of Hannah's barrenness

1. The cause of Hannah's barrenness from **1 Sam. 1:6** is the Lord had closed her womb.
2. Hannah's infertility wasn't a medical condition, it was the work of the Lord in her life.
3. Hannah was suffering the ridicule of her rival because of God's work in her life.
4. Application: Even when life's circumstances seem undesirable, God is still at work.

D. Hannah's response

- *Hannah could have responded to her life circumstances in any number of ways.*
 1. – Bitterness
 - a. She could have just become a mean and bitter woman.
 - b. She could have just taken out her frustrations on everyone, including Elkanah.
 2. – She could have left the home.
 - a. Hannah could have said I am not happy in this marriage, so I want a divorce.
 - b. Men & women today give up on their marriages. Hannah stayed in difficult situation
 3. – Hannah took it to the Lord.
 - a. Hannah did the *right* thing, she took the matter before the Lord.

IV. Hanna before the Lord (1 Samuel 1:8-11)

A. Hannah prayed.

- *Hannah knew & believed that God was her only source of comfort & encouragement.*
 1. – In bitterness of soul
 - a. Hannah was greatly distressed, weight of her burden was more than she could bear.
 - b. Application: Life has a way of bringing us to just such a place.
 - c. Examples: A heavy sorrow, weighty decision, circumstance that seems unsolvable.
 - d. Hannah took it all to the Lord, the one who can do all things We should do likewise.
 2. – In complete subjection
 - a. Hannah referred to herself as the “maidservant” of the Lord.
 - b. Hannah understood the believer's position before God.
 - c. Her petition was made as one bowing before the King with complete humility.
 3. – Vow
 - a. Hannah made a vow to the Lord that if God would grant her a son, she would give that son back to the Lord to serve the Lord all his life.
 - b. Application: There is no greater prayer that a mother could offer on behalf of their children than that they know God and serve Him all their days.
 - c. Hannah dedicated her son to God before she had him.
 - d. Hannah promised to honor God through her son.