

Hannah I Sam. 1:1-2:21

Introduction:

There are many examples that we could look at throughout the Bible to show us how to be a great parent. Today, on Mother's Day, we will look at the example of Hannah. Even though we are looking at Hannah's life, it is important to note that all of us, both men and women, should strive to do the things that are necessary for our children to grow up in the Lord.

We know that Samuel was a great prophet for the Lord. We also know that his mother, Hannah, was a great servant of the Lord.

The one thing that Hannah wanted the most for Samuel was for him to be faithful to the Lord. She desired this so much that she was willing to give Samuel to the priest and let him raise him to serve the Lord. Hannah is a great example of a godly mother. Today, we will look at the things that she did in order to ensure that her son would be faithful to God.

I. Hannah is a prayerful woman (1:9-18).

- A. To give us a better understanding of the situation that Hannah was in, notice some facts about her (1:1-7).
 - 1. Hannah was the wife of Elkanah (1:1-2).
 - a. Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah and Hannah.
 - b. Peninnah had sons and daughters (1:4); however, Hannah was barren (1:2).
 - 2. Each year, as they went up to make an offering before God, Peninnah would provoke her, "to make her miserable" (1:6-7).
 - 3. Hannah would get so upset at this offering that she would only weep and not eat (1:7).
 - 4. Even in all this grief, Hannah was a prayerful woman.
- B. Hannah prays that she would have a male child (1:9-18).
 - 1. Before we read the prayer that she uttered, we read of two characteristics of the prayer (1:10).
 - a. "She was in bitterness of soul."
 - b. She "wept in anguish."
 - c. This is a great example of one who was literally "pouring out her soul" before God.
 - 2. The prayer that she made was very simple (1:11).
 - a. If God would give her a male child, then she would "give him to the Lord all the days of his life."
 - b. We know that God answered her prayers with Samuel.
 - c. She fulfilled her commitment to God by giving him to the Lord, as we will look at later in the lesson.
- C. We also read more about her prayer when she is confronted by Eli, the priest (1:12-18).
- D. Hannah demonstrates to us that a good mother is a prayerful mother.
 - 1. Being a parent is the most difficult job that one can have.

- a. It is often thankless.
 - b. There are no monetary rewards.
 - c. In fact, sacrifices must be made in order to be a good parent (and especially mother).
 - d. However, with all that being said, being a parent is also a very rewarding job.
2. It is also a great responsibility to be a mother.
- a. You are in charge of another's life (and more importantly another soul).
 - b. In many cases, a parent will determine the spiritual outcome of the child.
 - 1) Obviously, the child will grow up and have to make decisions by themselves.
 - 2) However, it is their foundation that they will turn to most often.
 - 3) **Pr. 22:6** - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
3. Because of this great responsibility, prayer is a must for a godly mother.
- a. Prayer should be a part of every Christians' life, but especially a mother.
- E. Hannah was a prayerful woman.

II. Hannah was a thankful mother (2:1-11).

- A. At a time in which we might think one to be saddened, Hannah rejoiced.
- 1. This was a prayer of thanksgiving for Samuel.
 - 2. She uttered this prayer as she was giving Samuel to Eli, the priest, so that he could minister before the Lord.
 - 3. God had answered Hannah's request for a child, and now Hannah was giving her son to the Lord.
- B. Notice how she speaks of God in this prayer (2:1-10).
- 1. As we read this prayer, notice how highly she speaks of God.
 - 2. Notice again the key verse in this prayer of thanksgiving (2:1).
- C. While the text does not specifically say, we can guess that leaving Samuel with Eli was probably the most difficult thing that Hannah had ever done.
- 1. However, when she gave Samuel to Eli, she was thankful.
 - 2. She was thankful because the Lord had answered her prayer.
- D. Hannah demonstrates to us that a good mother is a thankful mother.

III. More than anything else in the world, Hannah wanted her son to be a faithful servant of the Lord.

- A. Remember the prayer (and vow) that Hannah had made before God (1:11).
- 1. She promised that if God would give her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord.
 - 2. God fulfilled His end of the vow (1:20).
 - 3. Now Hannah is going to fulfill her end of the vow.

- a. **I Sam. 1:21-23** – Hannah and Samuel do not go up to offer the sacrifice while Samuel is young.
 - b. **I Sam. 1:24-28** – Hannah takes Samuel to the tabernacle.
 - c. **I Sam. 2:11** – After the prayer of thanksgiving, Hannah and Elkanah leave Samuel with Eli.
4. Remember, more than anything, Hannah wanted Samuel to be faithful to God.
- B. Hannah continued to visit and encourage and take care of her son while he was serving the Lord (**2:18-21**).
 1. She would make him a robe every year and bring it to him.
 2. God visited Hannah; and Hannah bore three sons and two daughters.
 - C. Hannah obviously did the right thing for her son.
 1. Notice what is said about Samuel.
 - a. **I Sam. 2:21** - *And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.*
 - b. **I Sam. 3:19** - *So Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.*
 2. We can know she did the right thing because of the great prophet that Samuel was for Israel.
 - D. Any parent who truly cares about their children will do what they can to provide for a spiritual foundation for their children.
 1. Hannah was willing to sacrifice all of her selfish desires in order for Samuel to be faithful.

Conclusion:

We know that Samuel was a great prophet before the Lord. However, if it were not for the praying nature of his mother, he would have never been born. We need more mothers like Hannah. We need mothers whose top priority for their children is that they are faithful to God. Today, is it your top priority to teach your children to be faithful to God?

The best way for us to teach others, especially our children, is to be an example to them. Today, are you an example of a faithful Christian? Can our children look to you and see a godly person?

If we were to ask parents what the greatest day of their life was, one of their top answers would most certainly be the day that their child obeyed the gospel. Parents rejoice when such happens. However, we also know that **“there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents”** (**Lk. 15:7**).