

HANNAH: A MOTHER WORTHY OF IMITATION (I Samuel 1-2)

- Introduction:
1. Our society has set aside this day to honor our Mothers.
 2. Since many have their minds set on thoughts of Motherhood, I would like to draw your attention to a particular Mother.
 3. This Mother lived about 3000 years ago, and though she lived in a different era, she provides us with a worthy example of what a Mother should be.
 4. Let's examine a few points from the life of Hannah, Samuel's Mother.

I. Hannah Recognized That Children Are a Gift from God

- A. (Psalms 127:3) Children are a heritage from the Lord.
 1. "Heritage" - something transmitted from a predecessor; property of one that descends to an heir.
- B. Children are a gift given to parents by God, and Hannah recognized this truth (I Samuel 1:11).
- C. I wonder how graciously parents receive their gift from God?
 1. Abortion.
 2. Abuse.
 3. Neglect.
 4. Lack of Upbringing.
- D. Maybe by thinking of our children as a gift given by God, watching to see our reaction to His gift, we would be more likely to be more gracious recipients.

II. Hannah Promised to Devote Her Son to God

- A. (I Samuel 1:11).
- B. Would it not be wonderful for all parents to make such a promise?
- C. (Ephesians 6:4).
- D. Before a child is brought into this world, he should have parents who have dedicated themselves to devoting that child to God.
- E. No child is as fortunate as the child that has parents who have promised themselves as well as God to devote their child to godliness.

III. Hannah Devoted Her Son to God at a Great Cost

- A. (I Samuel 1:21-28).
- B. I can't imagine the sacrifice it must have been for Hannah to have given her little baby away.
- C. But she was committed to performing her vow (I Samuel 1:26-28).
- D. We need parents who are committed to performing their promises to God concerning the raising of their children (II Cor. 8:10-11).

- E. When viewing Hannah's sacrifice, my sacrifices don't seem nearly as large.
 - 1. Bible classes.
 - 2. Read to your child.
 - 3. Tell them stories.
 - 4. Home devotionals.
 - 5. Personal example.
- F. (Deuteronomy 6:7-9).

IV. Hannah Was a Mother Worthy of Imitation

- A. Being a good mother does not stop with your own family, but as ripples in a pond, affects the lives of countless others.
- B. (Luke 1:46-55) Mary imitates Hannah's prayer.
- C. We need mothers, who like Hannah, are worthy of imitation.
- D. (Titus 2:3-5).

- Conclusion:
- 1. Parents have been given a wonderful gift from God.
 - 2. The eternal destiny of that child will largely be determined by our conduct as a parent.
 - 3. Let that reminder serve to prompt us to be better parents.
 - 4. May we all, at any cost, determine to devote our children to God, as did Hannah.