

Happy Mother's Day

This morning I want to share with you from 1 Samuel chapter 1. But before I do that let me share with you some things that Mother taught me:

- **My mother taught me To Appreciate a job well done** - she said, "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
- **My mother taught me about Religion** - she said, "You better pray that will come out of the carpet."
- **My mother taught me about Time Travel** - she said, "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week."
- **My mother taught me Logic** - she said, "Because I said so, that's why."
- **My mother taught me Foresight** - she said, "Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."
- **My mother taught me Irony** - she said, "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
- **My mother taught me about Contortionists** - she said,

"Will look at the dirt on the back of your neck."

- **My mother taught me about Stamina** - she said, "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
- **My mother taught me about the weather** - she said, "This room looks like a tornado went through it."
- **My mother taught me about Hypocrisy** - she said, "If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate." OK maybe that one was the father. . .
Alright me.
- **My mother taught me about Behavior Modification** - she said, "Stop acting like your father."
- **My mother taught me about Anticipation** - she said, "Just wait until your father get's home."
- **My mother taught me about Receiving** - she said, "Your going to get it when you get home."
- **My mother taught me about Medical Science** - she said, "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."
- **My mother taught me about Genetics** - she said, "You're just like your father."
- **My mother taught me about my Roots** - she said, "Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were

born in a barn."

- **My mother taught me about Justice** - she said, "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you."

This morning I hope to encourage our mother's on this the day of their celebration, as we look at the story of Hannah.

But first let me first share with you the stages of parenthood. So dads this is your part of the message as well.

At 3 years of age it's my parents know everything and can do anything!

At 7 years of age my parents know and can do a whole lot.

At 10 years of age my parents don't quite know everything

At 15 I can't believe my parents don't know that.

At 18 my parents, they are so yesterday.

At 25 We'll, my parents might know just a little about that.

At 35 wonder what my parents would think about this?

At 45 Let's get my parents opinion before we decide on that.

And at 65 sure wish I could talk this over with my parents.

Three sons had grown up and left, had their careers and really did quite well for themselves. A time came that they got together and discussed what they had gotten for their now elderly mom for Mother's Day.

The first said, "I built a big house for our mother." The second said, "I sent her a Mercedes with a driver." The third smiled and said, "I've got you both beat. You remember how mom enjoyed reading the Bible? And you know she can't see very well. I sent her a remarkable parrot that recites the entire Bible. It took elders in the church 12 years to teach him. He's one of a kind. Mama just has to name the chapter and verse, and the parrot recites it.

Soon thereafter, mom sent out letters of thanks for the gifts. "Milton," she wrote, "The house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house." "Gerald," she wrote to another, "I am too old to travel. I stay most of the time at home, so I rarely use the Mercedes.

And the driver is so rude!" "Dearest Donald," she wrote to her third son, "You have the good sense to know what your mother likes. The chicken was delicious!"

Ok let's look at our text this morning. Oh before I do that here's my Mothers Day gift (do song).

1 Sam. 1:1 - There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.

Now isn't that just what you wanted to know?

Verse 2 - He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none.

Looking at this text it would appear to me that Hannah was Elkanah's first wife. I do think that is an important fact and I will share more in just a minute.

Let me just say on the onset that it was never God's intention to have anyone have more than one wife. This was not in God's original design.

So here's Hannah she get's married has all these dreams of being the virtuous wife. Loves her husband wants to do what every Jewish girl during this time wants to do for her husband provide him with someone to carry on the family name.

But Hannah can't have children. So it isn't too long in this relationship that she realizes her dream isn't happening. And it isn't too hard for Elkanah to realize the problem as well. So he comes up with what seems to be this awesome solution. If Hannah who I love can't provide me children I will find someone who can. So he takes Peninnah as his 2nd wife.

If that just doesn't add insult to injury.

However, his plan seems to work it seems like Peninnah has no trouble making babies. She has at least 5 that she

gives to Elkanah her husband.

But it doesn't come without its own set of problems. He really has caused quite a mess. A rivalry develops between Hannah and Peninnah. Hannah knows that she is loved, but also understands that she has fallen short of his and her dreams.

Each year they would take a trip to Shiloh to worship and on this particular year something interesting takes place. . .

1 Sam. 1:3-5 - Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb.

Elkanah would sacrifice the animal and instead of giving out equal proportions the Scripture tells us that he gave

Hannah a double portion.

This was I suppose one of the ways that he wanted to express his love for Hannah. I'm not sure if he realized how saddened she was that she could not fulfill her calling of wanting to be parent, but nonetheless he gave her a double portion because he loved her.

It appears to me in this text that he didn't love Peninnah at least not like Hannah. He gave her the portion out of obligation rather than love, but to Hannah he gave out of love and not obligation.

I think there are some in the Body of Christ that do the same. We come to church out of obligation, we give out of obligation, we do out of obligation. God desires we give out of love.

So Elkanah wants to express his love to Hannah and wanted to honor her, but despite all that. . .

The Scripture says, the Lord closed her womb. It almost

appears that Hannah wanted so badly to have a child, just one to show her womanhood. That this statement the Lord closed her womb became her identity. It seems like if that doesn't happen I'm not the woman I'm supposed to be.

Let me pause here for a moment and tell you this. I don't care what negative anyone says about you. You need to realize what God has called you. And what He called you is always good.

But at this stage in Hannah's life this stigma has become her identity. She is the woman who has the scarlet letter B for barren.

She knows, but so does Peninnah. And once again that rivalry starts up, because Peninnah notices something else as well. She notices that Hannah receives a double portion of the sacrifice. And so it breeds some more jealousy.

Peninnah has something she can use however, its found in verse 6.

1 Sam. 1:6 - Because the Lord had closed Hannah's womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her.

Peninnah decides to use what she knows will get under Hannah's skin. She makes jabs at the fact that she is barren.

It's almost if she was saying, "I can do what you can't do."
Ha ha ha ha.

And this wasn't just a one time thing look at verse 7.

1 Sam 1:7 - This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.

They are going to the temple to what? . . .Worship. This should be a time of celebration instead we find Hannah weeping and not eating.

I have noticed that the enemy wants to distract us from our worship. He will go through great lengths to get you to think you don't belong here. Get you to think all sorts of things that are contrary to what God has said. He will jab at you until you snap.

You come and their still not healed, still not saved, still not. . .

Hannah however, gives us hope.

Hannah is in the temple and won't eat. See is no doubt tired of hearing Peninnah and her jabs. She is in the temple and it should be a time of rejoicing, but. . .

Hannah is sitting in front of this double portion. Peninnah is jealous over that. Hannah sitting in the presence of the one that she is jealous over sad, depressed, miserable, and downcast. The scene just couldn't get more uncomfortable. Or could it?

In walks mister I can fix this thing Elkanah. He looks over

to Hannah who he was trying to honor and she won't even eat. He has had enough, it is time for him to address this situation and fix it now.

So he asks a series of questions. 4 to be exact. The first 3 not bad questions, the last one however, doesn't bring much comfort to the situation.

1 Sam. 1:8 - Her husband Elkanah would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

It almost as through Elkanah with this last question. . .Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?" is saying, suck it up buttercup. Why be so sad you've got me babe.

I think just like many of us men Elkanah is thinking, "there that should help, she'll be happy now." Many times I need to be honest I can be pretty naive.

And what happens is the exact opposite of what he was expecting to happen. Instead of her looking him in the eyes and saying, "you know what honey your right." She burst into tears.

I don't know about the rest of you guys, but I have had those moments when I said something, didn't get the response I thought and said to myself, "what did I say?"

That was probably how Elkanah felt.

I mean let's consider this for a moment. Imagine how Hannah is feeling. She's thinking, I can't have children. I have to share my husband with another woman and this woman constantly makes jabs at me because I'm barren. Rubs that in my face all the time. She has all these kids and me I have none. I'm miserable and depressed and my husband doesn't get it. He just wants me to suck it up, put on my big girl panties and move on.

Well it's just not the easy.

We don't know how or even if Hannah responded to these questions. I can almost imagine on the last question don't I mean more to you than ten sons? Her saying oh really if you mean so much, if I mean so much why then did you run off and marry another woman.

This is a mess. But let me pause here for a moment and say this, I don't care how messy your circumstances are right now. God is bigger than your circumstances. I mean this circumstance is ugly. But let's look what Hannah does.

I want to share a few things that I think will help us understand what we need to do when our lives circumstances seem ugly.

1. Hannah takes her circumstance to God.

Maybe she's thinking no one understands me, my husband doesn't, this other woman certainly has no compassion. And so she needs to talk with someone and we find that in verses 9 and 10.

1 Sam. 1:9-10 - Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord's house.
10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.

So many times in a situation we look to get revenge. We pour out our anger on those who hurt us. Some may even think that Hannah would of justified in this situation to lash out at Peninnah. But there was something different about Hannah. She doesn't lay into her husband telling him about all his weaknesses. She doesn't look at Peninnah with the evil eye thinking wait your turn is coming. No she pours her heart out to God.

I will never forget what my mother said to me. She told once I need to clean up my act before I go to God. As if in our own strength we can do that.

See maybe Hannah would have been justified in her mind or even in the mind of others to get even with Peninnah,

but she learned I need to take my anger, my bitterness, my hatred. I need to bring it to God.

Church, God is saying the same thing to us today. Bring all those things to me. I'm bigger than your bitterness, I'm bigger than the circumstances you are struggling with right now.

Look at how her prayer is described in verses 15 and 16.

1 Sam. 1:15-16 - Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. 16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."

Look at this she says, I'm deeply troubled, I was pouring my soul out to the Lord. I'm praying out of great anguish and grief.

It's as if she is saying, "Eli if you only knew everything I've been dealing with, if you knew how what that woman was

saying to me." Maybe then you would understand.

These were not just now I lay me down to sleep, or God I have a few requests today type of prayer. This was gut wrenching I'm at my last leg have nowhere else to go, and no one to turn to prayer.

She had a request, and it was pretty big at that. She asked for a son. But it was a prayer of I need you to intervene or I may do something I will regret later type of prayer.

This was a prayer of desperation.

Let me pause here and give another example of what Hannah was praying like. (Talk about the woman with the issue of blood).

Listen church if you are not moving towards something, it most likely isn't moving towards you. Jesus called the disciples and said come follow me. The Scripture tells us desire spiritual gifts. We need to move toward the things

we want.

I couldn't wait for Joy to ask me out. I had to move toward her and let her know I was interested.

Hear this church, there may be times in your circumstances when you need to go crawling to the Savior. Man won't have the answers, husband won't have the answers, pastor won't have the answers, but we serve a God that can walk with you and guide you through every circumstance and situation that you encounter.

So the first lesson we learn from Hannah is that she takes her circumstances to God. The next lesson we can learn is. . .

2. Hannah surrenders to God the very thing she wanted more than anything else.

Look at verse 11.

1 Sam. 1:11 - And she made a vow, saying, "Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

This was a vow to have Samuel under a Nazarite vow. What was a Nazarite vow? Thanks for asking.

A Nazarite vow can be found in Numbers chapter 6. Without reading it let me just share with you the key points of a vow like this.

First we need to look at the word Nazarite comes from the Hebrew word nazir meaning "consecrated or separated."

This vow required a person to abstain from wine, grapes, raisins, any intoxicating drink or vinegar made from such substances that contains any trace of grapes. They had to refrain from cutting their hair. Could not come in contact with someone who had died, even those in their own family.

Another interesting point about a Nazarite vow found in Numbers 6 is that it seems that it was for a predetermined length of time. Some may have been under this vow for a year. But Hannah says I will give him to you all the days of his life.

It looks as though Hannah may have made her desire to have a son, too much of a priority. It had become her identity. It seems like at first she was willing to have a son, more than God. But something shifted when she was praying.

What was, I want this more than anything was now, I want a son, but I give him back to you.

Listen church nothing and I mean nothing can be more important than God in your life. They call that an idol. And we need to destroy all of them. God needs to be first.

The next lesson we learn is that Hannah changed her demeanor before God changed her circumstances.

Look at verses 12-14

1 Sam. 1:12-14 - As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk 14 and said to her, "How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine."

Think about this Peninnah had attacked her, Elkanah doesn't understand her, and now Eli the priest, God's called out one is accusing her of being drunk.

Look at verse 15

1 Sam. 1:15 - Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord.

Eli I'm not drunk. I'm depressed, I'm miserable.

I can think of another time when they thought people of God were drunk. It happened on the Day of Pentecost. Isn't it amazing that if God does something out of the ordinary or different than what we think we tend to think it can't be Him.

Verses 16-18 tells us,

1 Sam. 1:16-18 - Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." 17 Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." 18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

Eli begins to understand, he looks with compassion which Hannah may not have had for quite some time and says to her. ". . .May the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."

Hannah goes on to say May your servant find favor in your eyes. Oh by the way the name Hannah means, favor or grace.

It seems like she was finding her destiny what it should be, something shifted in that prayer closet. She begins to realize her true destiny. She begins to find her true calling. No longer the label of Barren, but favor and grace.

This is a great picture of Christ and how He takes care of the church. We come to him with a mess and he grants us favor and grace in the midst of our messes.

Look again at the last part of verse 18. Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

She picks herself up, goes back to the table, thinks to herself you know I'm a little hungry I think I will go eat that double portion that I was given.

Basically, this Scripture is saying. I believe in faith that it is done. Her whole countenance, demeanor changed.

When you are in the presence of God, something ought to change. She walked away no longer downcast. No longer miserable. No longer depressed .

Hannah had a changed heart. It is as if she began to have a new identity.

Now here we are back at the table. Peninnah is there, Elkanah is there, and in walks Hannah. She walked out sad, walks in with hope. Looks at her meal and begins to eat. Both recognize something happened.

Look at Acts 4:13 - When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

When you spend time in the presence of God, when you spend time with Jesus. If you will surrender all to Him,

people will take notice.

While Hannah is eating maybe they are wondering, "why is she happy, what happened." What does she know that we don't?

Listen I have seen people that say they are Believers. That they love the Lord. That He is everything to them. They don't attend a local Body. They don't look the part. They are negative, always looks like they have been sucking on a lemon. Is that the Jesus I serve?

I want a Jesus that people when they see me say, "what is it about him?" "There's something going on with him." I need my countenance to reflect His goodness.

Hannah's circumstances haven't changed. She's not pregnant, She still has no son, but there was something that took place in her heart as she wept before God.

4. Hannah remembers what she prayed.

Look at verses 19 and 20.

1 Sam. 1:19-20 - Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. 20 So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, "Because I asked the Lord for him."

They get up in the morning and worship. She becomes pregnant with what will be Samuel. By the way the name Samuel in Hebrew means, asked of God, or heard by God.

The Scripture tells us the Lord remembered her.

So Hannah begins to trust before anything changes. And when things do change she remembers what she prayed.

I think sometimes we forget what we prayed for and so when our request is finally fulfilled maybe years down the road. God doesn't get the glory, because we forgot that

we asked him. And since the timing wasn't our timing we feel it never was answered.

Now I realize that this is much different, but my point is we need to trust God when we take something to Him. Believing it's done before we may even see a change. And then give Him the glory no matter how long that answer may be.

That is why testimony is so encouraging to others. If we can remember what God has done, it can be a launchpad of encouragement for another that may need a similar answer.

So Hannah after years of being barren has the opportunity to rejoice for an answered prayer. It doesn't say this in Scripture, but I think Hannah shared her prayer time and her discussion with Eli with Elkanah.

Look at verse 21.

1 Samuel 1:21 - When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfill his vow,

Look at it. To fulfill his vow. It's like alright God, I know you gave Samuel to us, I know Hannah said he would be a Nazarite all the days of his life. I'm in agreement with that he is yours not ours.

See here's the thing in Numbers chapter 30. If a wife made a vow, the husband could veto it and overturn what she committed to. Elkanah doesn't do that.

He easily could have said you did what? What were you thinking. That's not going to happen on my watch. But he doesn't he supported her decision.

I need you to understand the ramifications of this vow. And I will look at this in a few minutes.

1 Sam. 1:22 - Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, "After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always."

Now before we get to thinking that she was having second thoughts because she didn't go with her husband this time. She says after he is weaned then I will go.

Verse 23 - Do what seems best to you," her husband Elkanah told her. "Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word." So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him.

I think it could be said like this. Honey I'm behind you on this one, I get it. But don't forget what you vowed and when he is weaned honor what you said. God did His part make sure you do yours.

It continues verse 24.

1 Sam. 1:24 - After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh.

This may have been when he was around the age of two or three.

Look what happens. Verses 25-28.

1 Sam. 1:25-28 - When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, 26 and she said to him, "Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. 27 I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. 28 So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he will be given over to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

Think about this for a moment. She is bringing him, Samuel, to the temple. She's committed, Elkanah is committed, and Samuel is committed. Look at the ending

of verse 28, and he worshipped the Lord there. I think the he is Samuel.

About the age of three. He's is in the temple worshipping. Lifting his hands, maybe singing, just worshipping.

Let me just say this for the children that are here. The one thing that mom wants on Mother's Day is her children in love with the Lord, worshipping with her in the temple.

Now here is where the story really gets radical. I mentioned that we needed to understand the ramifications of this vow.

Here is where it gets difficult.

You would think that Elkanah would have to drag Hannah out of that place. She is dropping him off at around 3 to stay there without her. She will see him a few times a year, maybe. You would almost expect her to say wait a minute, I know what I said, but I was hoping this would be one of those sacrifices like it was with Isaac and Abraham

when an angel came and said don't do it.

But we don't see that all we see is a time of praise.

Now I could go on but I want to try and bring this plane in for a landing. I do want to just mention a few things that I think are extremely important to this story.

First when you look at the life of Samuel you need to see that. . . He was the one that anointed the first two kings of Israel. Saul and David. Jesus came from the lineage of David. So had it not been for Hannah's prayer. . .think about that. Her prayer changed the world.

For from Jesus we are given Eternal life, because of what he did at Calvary.

Here's the point church you never know who's life you will effect when you get in the throne room of God.

Oh by the way Hannah went on to have more children 5 more to be exact. 3 sons and 2 daughters. That's just

how good God is.

Let close with a couple of things that may help us make this more applicable for us.

- No matter how bad the situation looks, take it to the Lord.

James tells us if any man lack wisdom let him ask of God. God can take a messes and with them make a message.

- Is there anything you are placing before the God or His will in your life. Hannah had to say Lord thank you for giving me Samuel, but I give Him back to You, all I want to do is please You. I love him, but I love you more.
- Trust that God is a Good Good Father. And that even if it may not seem like it right now, he has a plan for you. A hope and a future. Let people see the confidence you have in Him. Let the sense that you know something that they don't and it is that you have been

with Jesus.

Ask mothers to stand and have a prayer specifically for them. (They are your daughters) (Holy Spirit touch them) (You gave your best, let them give their's) (use the messes and give them a message).