

The Journey from Barren to Blessed

1 Samuel 1: 10-11

This morning as we celebrate Mother's Day, I am reminded of the love a mother possesses for her children. It is a love unlike any other. A mother's love is unique; it is deep and special. I certainly love my children, but I can't love them like their mother. God created a special bond between a mother and her children that they alone can share. A mother's love is likely the strongest love known to man, surpassed only by the love of God Himself.

We have read a beautiful portion of Scripture that deals with the life of a precious mother and her difficult journey to have a child. Hannah was married to Elkanah, but he also had another wife, Peninnah. Peninnah had several children, but Hannah was barren. Elkanah loved Hannah deeply, but her barrenness caused great grief and distress in Hannah's life. She was ridiculed by Peninnah because she was unable to bear children.

We have picked up in the text as Hannah makes her petition unto the Lord. She possessed qualities that every mother ought to possess. In fact, Hannah had a commitment to the Lord and her family that all would do well to possess. This message was prepared with mothers in mind, but there is certainly application for all of us. Let's take a few moments to discuss this passage and the [qualities](#) Hannah possessed as we consider: [The Journey from Barren to Blessed](#).

I. The Desire Hannah Possessed – This portion of Scripture reveals the desire of a godly woman. Through her desire we learn much about her character. This ought to challenge each of us in our daily lives and walk with the Lord. Consider:

A. Her Petition (10-11a) – [And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.](#)

^[11] [And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid...](#)Hannah had suffered because of her barrenness and the ridicule she endured. She was in great bitterness of soul. It would have been easy for her to have blamed God and grown bitter toward Him, but instead she turned to God. She sought Him in her time of grief, knowing He alone had the ability to meet her need. If she was to be delivered from her condition, God would have to deliver her.

- Surely each of us has faced situations that were beyond our ability to handle. There have been times in all our lives when we faced adversity and pain. God alone is able to provide what we need in those situations, and yet some grow angry and bitter at God. We must do as Hannah did and take our petitions to the only One who is able to meet our need, fully trusting Him!

B. Her Submission (11) – And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. There can be little doubt that Hannah was committed to the Lord and fully surrendered to Him. She had been ridiculed because she lacked children and she has taken that request before the Lord. It is interesting to note, the very thing she desires most, she is willing to give up in dedication unto the Lord. She vows to God that if He will give her a son, she will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life. She would ensure that he was raised according to the Nazarite vow, fully separated and dedicated to the Lord.

- Oh how we need mothers in our day that are fully surrendered to the Lord and His service. We need those like Hannah who will trust the Lord for their needs and then serve Him faithfully after God provides for them. Many often forget God when the trial has ended.

- We need those who will raise their children unto the Lord. We need those who will commit their children to the Lord and encourage their service for Him. We don't need "Momma called" preachers, but we do need preachers and Christians who have been raised by a loving, supportive, praying mother!

C. Her Confirmation (17-18) – Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. ^[18] And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad. As Hannah prayed, she was observed by Eli the high priest. At first he supposed she was drunk, but when he discovered her commitment and sincerity, he offers words of comfort. He assures her that God will answer her request. Hannah goes away in faith, fully believing that God would provide for her.

- I can't promise that life will never bring disappointment and pain. Serving the Lord does not shield us from difficulty, but we can take comfort in the Lord. He is faithful to His own. He will provide for those who seek Him in faith. We may not be able to see how our situation will end, but we must learn to walk by faith. Things may or may not work out as we thought, but as long as we are following the Lord, they will work out as they should. His ways are always best!

I. The Desire Hannah Possessed

II. The Devotion Hannah Portrayed (22-28) – Here we find that God was faithful in giving Hannah a son, and she remained faithful to her commitment to Him. She was devoted to the Lord. Consider:

A. Her Patience (22-23) – But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.* ^[23] And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him. Each year Elkanah went up to the Tabernacle as in the past, but Hannah did not go up again until she had weaned Samuel. I am sure that she enjoyed every moment she had with him and was in no real hurry to give him up, but we cannot miss her patience either. She wanted to ensure she had done all she could to equip Samuel for his life of service. This would be a great honor for her and her family, but she waited patiently.

- There will be times in our lives when we must wait patiently as well. There are times when we must remain committed to the task for an extended period of time. As we consider Mother's Day, we are reminded of the important task of raising children. It takes patience and endurance, but I pray that we will all do our part as we encourage our children and raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Be patient, instilling godly principles and biblical truth in them.

B. Her Praise (24-25) – And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. ^[25] And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. As Hannah and Elkanah took Samuel unto Eli, they took offerings of praise and worship unto the Lord. God had been faithful in their lives and they were determined to offer praise unto Him. Hannah did not forget the goodness of God in her life.

- I am certain we all have much to praise God for; He is worthy of our worship. If you have children, you are blessed of the Lord. Even if you do not have children, you too are blessed. Whatever the case, the children of Fellowship need to see us worship the Lord and praise Him for His goodness. We can't expect them to worship if we don't set an example.

C. Her Presentation (27-28) – For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: ^[28] Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there. Hannah kept her word and honored her commitment unto the Lord. He had been faithful to her and she remained faithful to Him. She committed Samuel to the Lord and left him at the Tabernacle to minister as a servant of the Lord.

- Much can be said in regard to Hannah's commitment and faithfulness. She kept her word and obeyed the Lord. We too must keep our commitments to the Lord. Have you made promises in the past that you failed to keep? Are you fully serving the Lord in the capacity He desires of you? If not, you need to surrender to the Lord and begin anew, keeping your commitments to Him!

I. The Desire Hannah Possessed

II. The Devotion Hannah Portrayed (22-28)

III. The Delight Hannah Proclaimed (2:1-2) – The opening verses of this chapter record Hannah’s song of praise. I want to consider a couple of aspects about her song. It was:

A. A Song of Rejoicing (1a) – *And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD:* As we consider the journey Hannah made we find that she had much to rejoice in. God had taken away her reproach; He had answered her prayer, and her son was committed to a life of service unto the Lord. She had no way of knowing the impact Samuel would have on Israel, but she rejoiced in the Lord. She praised the Lord for His goodness in her life.

- That presents a challenge to us as well. We have much to rejoice in. We have no way of knowing what tomorrow will bring, but we know who holds tomorrow. We can rest in His goodness and rejoice in His power!

B. A Song of Redemption (1b) – *my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.* There can be little doubt that Hannah was thankful for being delivered from the reproach of Peninnah and those who scorned her. God had provided for her desires in this life. I also believe that Hannah rejoiced for her relationship with the Lord. She had experienced the salvation of the Lord. Her faith and trust was in Him.

- Every Christian has a song of redemption. It may have been a while since you sang it, but it is there. If you belong to the Lord, being born again in Christ, He has placed a song within you! I rejoice for the salvation I have received. We have much to be thankful for. On this day I am thankful for my mother and the mother of my children, but I am most thankful for my salvation!

C. A Song of Resolution (2) – *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.* Hannah had no doubt that she served the true and living God. There were none beside Him. He alone had met her need and delivered her. He alone was worthy of her praise. She was settled in her faith and that would not change. She was secure in Him.

- We too can rejoice that we serve the Lord God Almighty. We serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. There are none beside Him. He alone provided for our redemption. He alone saved us from our sin. He will keep us for all eternity. We can take comfort in His grace and power. I stand secure in the arms of Jesus!

Conclusion: I think you would agree that Hannah stands as role model for all mothers today. In fact she offers a great example for all to follow. She faced great adversity and rather than growing bitter, she sought the Lord and trusted in Him. He was faithful to her and she honored His faithfulness with a committed life. Each of us needs that type of commitment. Maybe you need to come before the Lord and renew your commitment to Him. Maybe there were promises made in the past, but you have failed to keep your end of the agreement. If so, I urge you to seek the Lord today. He is faithful and just to cleanse all our iniquity.

Maybe you are here today and don't have a relationship with the Lord like Hannah did. You are not sure of your salvation and can't rejoice in redemption. If so, Jesus stands ready to cleanse and forgive, saving you by His marvelous grace. Will you respond as He leads?