

II. WHAT A GRACIOUS MOTHER LOOKS LIKE: 1 Samuel 1:21-28



INTRODUCTION: **Q.** What does a gracious mother look like? **A.** Hannah in 1 Samuel 1. "Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction..." (1 Corinthians 10:11).

CONTEXT: Samuel.

BIG IDEA: What a gracious mother looks like.

A WORD TO EACH OF YOU IN YOUR DIFFERENT SEASON AND SITUATIONS:

I. Girls and young woman, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can aim to be one someday.

II. Boys and young men, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can aim to marry one someday.

III. Would-be mothers, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can pray and prepare now for the day when you have children.

IV. Physical Mothers, you with those in your physical care, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can examine yourself, be exhorted to faithfulness, and so be comforted by the Scriptures.

V. Spiritual Mothers, you with those in your spiritual care, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can examine yourself, be exhorted to faithfulness, and so be comforted by the Scriptures.

VI. Would-be husbands, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you choose a godly woman to marry who will aim to be a gracious mother.

VII. Would-be fathers, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can pray and help your wife prepare to be a gracious mother.

VIII. Fathers, you need to know what a gracious mother looks like so you can help your wife examine yourself, help exhort her to faithfulness, and help comfort her by the Scriptures.

DOCTRINE: Six marks of a gracious mother.

I. A gracious mother works as the helpmate of her husband to see that their children love and serve the Lord (vv. 21-23a), **If you are not able to give birth to*

*children or if you are not able to adopt children, you will all still be able to have spiritual children!**

II. A gracious mother does all she can to see that her children love and serve the Lord (v. 22),

III. A gracious mother will not willingly let another bring up her children; she takes up that duty herself (v. 23b),

IV. A gracious mother offers her children to the Lord by faith in the Lord's sacrifice (v. 24-25),

V. A gracious mother knows her children are a gift from the Lord, therefore she offers them back to Him for His glory (vv. 26-28a), and

VI. A gracious mother's greatest desire for her children is that they worship the Lord for His glory and their good (v. 28b).

I. A GRACIOUS MOTHER WORKS AS THE HELPMATE OF HER HUSBAND TO SEE THAT THEIR CHILDREN LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD (1 Samuel 1:21-23a)

1 Samuel 1:21-23 "21 The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. *[Elkanah it seems had also made a vow, possibly before Hannah, but it is more likely he ratified her vow, even making his own (Numbers 30)]* 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.' 23 Elkanah her husband said to her, 'Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.'"

–

- **BTW...HENRY:** "Those that are detained from public ordinances by the nursing and tending of little children may take comfort from this instance, and believe that, if they do that with an eye to God, he will graciously accept them therein. . ."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

II. A GRACIOUS MOTHER DOES ALL SHE CAN TO SEE THAT HER CHILDREN LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD (1 Samuel 1:22)

1 Samuel 1:22 "But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.'"

–

- **POOLE:** "'[As soon as the child be weaned]' not only from the breast and the milk, which was done within two or three years at most, but also from the mother's knee and care, and from childish food; till the child be something grown up, and fit to do some service in the tabernacle, for, it

seems, that as soon as he was brought up, he worshipped God, 1 Samuel 1:28, and presently after ministered to Eli, 1 Samuel 2:11. And this may further appear from the very nature of the vow, which must needs design a service and an advantage to the tabernacle, and not a burden and encumbrance, as it would have been if a young child had been brought up to it, and left upon it."

- **SPURGEON:** "You are as much serving God in looking after your own children, and training them up in God's fear, and minding the house, and making your household a church for God, as you would be if you had been called to lead an army to battle for the Lord of hosts."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

III. A GRACIOUS MOTHER WILL NOT WILLINGLY LET ANOTHER BRING UP HER CHILDREN; SHE TAKES UP THAT DUTY HERSELF (1 Samuel 1:23b)

1 Samuel 1:23b "So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him."

-
- **HENRY:** "The close attendance Hannah gave to the nursing of him, not only because he was dear to her, but because he was devoted unto God, and for [God] she nursed him. She therefore nursed him herself, and did not the hang him on another's breast. . . This sanctifies the nursing of them, when it is done as unto the Lord."
- **C.S. LEWIS:** "Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work."
- **Mothers and would-be mothers, as your husbands helpmate, it is your duty to train your children up in:**
 - **I) Personal Stewardship** (by buffeting your body and making it your slave)
 - **III) Bodily Stewardship** (my using the body God has given you, fueling, exerting, and resting it for His glory)
 - **IV) Familial Stewardship** (by proving and protecting)
 - **V) Financial Stewardship** (by earning, budgeting, staying free from debt, saving, and investing)
 - **VI) Creational Stewardship** (by being fruitful and taking dominion)
 - **VII) Vocational Stewardship** (How to glorify the Lord in vocation whether as a man outside the home or a women in the home)
 - **VIII) Marital Stewardship** (Boys, how to be men who love their wives; Girls, how to be women who submit to the husbands, loving their husband and their children)
 - **IX) Chronological Stewardship** (How to make the best use of the

time)

- **X) Relational Stewardship** (How to treat older men, younger men, younger women, older women)
- **XI) Spiritual Stewardship** (Private, Family, Public Worship)
- **J.C. Ryle has a short booklet titled *The Duties of Parents*. You should read it and re-read it. *Ryle outlines and explains 17 duties**
- **THOMAS BOSTON also has an excellent section on duties Parents Owe to their Children in his section on the Fifth Commandment.**

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

IV. A GRACIOUS MOTHER OFFERS HER CHILDREN TO THE LORD BY FAITH IN THE LORD'S SACRIFICE (1 Samuel 1:24-25)

1 Samuel 1:24-25 "24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli."

- **HENRY:** "So far was she from thinking that, by presenting her son to God, she made God her debtor, that she thought it requisite by these slain offerings to seek God's acceptance of her living sacrifice. All our covenants with God for ourselves and ours must be made by sacrifice, the great sacrifice."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

V. A GRACIOUS MOTHER KNOWS THAT HER CHILDREN ARE A GIFT FROM THE LORD, THEREFORE SHE OFFERS THEM BACK TO HIM FOR HIS GLORY (1 Samuel 1:26-28a)

1 Samuel 1:26-28a "26 And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. 27 For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28a Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.'"

-
- **MACARTHUR:** "The son Hannah requested God had given, and she gives her gift back to the Giver."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

VI. A GRACIOUS MOTHER'S GREATEST DESIRE FOR HER CHILDREN IS THAT THEY WORSHIP THE LORD FOR HIS GLORY AND THEIR GOOD (1 Samuel 1:28b)

1 Samuel 1:28b "And he worshiped the LORD there." (c.f. 2:1, her response)

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

USES

I) Examination

- **Q. Mothers, are you a gracious mother?** What ways do you need to repent? In what ways do you need to press on?
- **Q. Children, do you have a gracious mother?** Then thank God for her, and tell her how thankful you are for her.
 - **Proverbs 31:28a** "Her children rise up and call her blessed."
- **Q. Fathers, is your wife a gracious mother?** Then thank God for her, and tell her how thankful you are for her.
 - **Proverbs 31:28b** "Her husband also, and he praises her."
- **Q. Fathers, is your wife a *NOT* gracious mother?** Then pray and get to work for God's glory. You are responsible. You are the head.
- **Q. Girls, young women, and grown women, do you or did you NOT have a gracious mother?** Then earnestly seek out a spiritual mother in the church. Seek out a godly woman who can be a gracious spiritual mother to you.
- **Q. You women who are not new or immature in the faith, who can you be a gracious mother to spiritually speaking?**

II) Exhortation

- **I.** Mothers and would-be mothers, *work as the helpmate of your husband to see that your children love and serve the Lord* (vv. 21-23a),
- **II.** Mothers and would-be mothers, *do all you can to see that your children love and serve the Lord* (v. 22),
- **III.** Mothers and would-be mothers, *do not willingly let another bring up your children; do whatever you must to take up that duty yourself* (v. 23b),
- **IV.** Mothers and would-be mothers, *offer your children to the Lord by faith in the Lord's sacrifice*—do all that you do by faith in Christ, and depending on Him for His help by the Holy Spirit! (v. 24-25),
- **V.** Mothers and would-be mothers, *realize your children are a gift from the LORD, therefore offer them back to Him for His glory* (vv. 26-28a), and
- **VI.** Mothers and would-be mothers, *your greatest desire for your children should be that they worship the Lord for His glory and their good* (v. 28b). If that is not your true desire, but you would rather see them successful as the world deems it, or desirable as culture dictates, or something else... Confess that to God now and ask Him to change your desires for your children!

III) Comfort

- **Mothers**, Do you see these desires Hannah has for Samuel? I know you most likely feel that you fail repeatedly, but are your desires the desires of a gracious mother? Are you aiming at bringing up your children to love and serve the Lord, though you stumble in many ways? TAKE HEART. These desires and aims are signs of God's abundant grace toward you in Christ.
- **All you believers**, see the love a gracious mother has for her children; see Hannah nursing Samuel with tender care, see her presenting her son to the Lord by sacrifice, see her taking pleasure in him as he worships the Lord! ***Then look at Christ Jesus and see that he has done all of this for you.***

I) Believers, Christ loves you with a tender love, like that of a nursing mother!

- **Isaiah 49:14-16** "Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

II) Saints, Christ presents you to the LORD by sacrifice!

- **Colossians 1:21-22** "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [Christ] has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

III) Beloved, Christ takes pleasure in his people especially as they worship him!

- **Psalms 149:4-5** "Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre! For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation. Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds."

BOYS AND GIRLS: repeat point.

- **ALL UNBELIEVERS AND FAKE BELIEVERS**, Go to Jesus Christ by repentance and faith and you will be received by him with this kind of tender compassion. We want you to be saved! Come and talk to any of us after the benediction! You need to be baptized, showing your faith is in Christ Jesus alone to save you and rule you! "All who believe in Him will never be put to shame."

THOMAS BOSTON

THE DUTIES WHICH PARENTS OWE TO THEIR CHILDREN

I) THE DUTY WHICH PARENTS OWE THEIR CHILDREN WHILE YET IN THE WOMB.

1st, Parents are obliged to use all care for the preservation of the child, to beware of any thing that may harm the child in the belly, and especially that may procure abortion, Judges 13:4.

2ndly, Dealing with God in behalf of the child, praying for its preservation, and for its soul, as soon as it is known to be a living soul. I think that no sooner should the mother or father know a living soul to be in the womb, but as soon with Rebekah, they should go to God for it, Genesis 25:21-22. If Hannah could devote her child to God before it was conceived, 1 Samuel 1:11, Christian parents may and ought to devote their children to God when quickened in the womb. Whoso neglect this, consider not that then the child is a sinful creature under the wrath of God, and the curse of the law; that it is capable of sanctification, must live for ever in heaven or hell, and that possibly it may never see the light."

II) THE DUTY PARENTS OWE THEIR CHILDREN IN THEIR INFANCY.

1st, Parents should bless God for them when they are born, Luke 1:67, etc. Children are God's heritage; the key of the womb is in his hand; he gives them to some, and withholds them from others; and they should be received with thankfulness from the Lord's hand. . .

[Next], **Tender care of them, doing all things necessary for them, while they are not capable to do for themselves, Isaiah 49:15.** And here it is the duty of the mother to nurse the child herself, if she be able, Hosea 9:14. And this care of infants, the burden of which lies most on the mothers is one great piece of their generation-work, wherein they are useful for God, and which they ought to look on as special service for their comfort in the trouble which therein they have."

III) THE DUTIES PARENTS OWE TO THEIR CHILDREN FROM THE TIME THEY COME TO THE USE OF REASON, AND SO FORWARD.

1st, They are to provide for them, and that aye and until they be in a capacity to provide for themselves, 1 Timothy 5:8. This arises from the natural

obligation and instinct that is common to men with beasts whereof the wildest will feed their young till they be able to do for themselves. Thus parents are,

(1) To provide suitable maintenance for their children for the present, and to lay out themselves for it, though with the sweat of their brows.

(2) And, as God prospers them, they are to lay up something for them, 2 Corinthians 12:14: for though the possession be their parents entirely, yet he is stinted to the use of a part according to what is necessary. Only no man is to take from present necessities for future provisions; but what God has given, let men take the comfortable use of it; and what remains, let them lay by for their children, Ecclesiastes 2:18-19, 24. But for people to deny themselves things necessary and comely, that they may lay up for their children, is a curse; and if their children should follow their example, to deny themselves the use thereof, to transmit them to theirs, the use of it should never be had: but ordinarily what the parents narrowly gather, and keep so as they cannot take the convenient use of it themselves, the children quickly run through.

2ndly, Civil education, that they may be useful members of the commonwealth. This we may take up in these three things.

(1) Parents should polish the rude natures of their children with good manners, so as they may carry comely and discreetly before themselves or others, Proverbs 31:28. It is the dishonour of parents to see children rude and altogether unpolished as young beasts; and religion is an enemy to rudeness and ill manners, 1 Peter 3:8.

(2) They should give them learning according to their ability, and see that at least they be taught to read the Bible, 2 Timothy 3:15. What is it that makes so many ignorant old people, but that their parents have neglected this? But where parents have neglected this, grace and good nature would make a shift to supply this defect.

(3) They should train them up to do something in the way of some honest employment, whereby they may be useful to themselves or others. To nourish children in idleness is but to prepare them for prisons or correction-houses, or to be plagues to some one family or another, if Providence do not mercifully interpose, Proverbs 31:27. Christians should train up their daughters to do virtuously, Proverbs 31:29. For their own sakes, let them be capable to make their hands sufficient for them, seeing none knows what straits they may be brought to. And for the sake of others to whom they may be joined, let them be virtuously, frugally, and actively educated, otherwise what they bring with them will hardly quit the cost of the mischief that their unthriftiness and silliness will produce, Proverbs 14:3. Whether ye can give them something or nothing, let them not want Ruth's portion, a good name, a good head, and good hands, Ruth 3:11. Sons should be brought up to some honest employment, whereby they may be worth their room in the world, Genesis 4:2. This is such a necessary piece of parents' duty to their children, that the Athenians had a law, That if a son was brought up to no calling at all, in case his father should come to poverty, he was not bound to maintain him, as otherwise he was.

3rdly, Religious education, Ephesians 6:4. If parents provide not for their

children, they are worse than beasts to their young; if they give them not civil education, they are worse than heathens; but if they add not religious education, what do they more than civilized heathens? When God gives thee a child, he says, as Pharaoh's daughter to Moses' mother, "Take this child and nurse it for me," Exodus 2:9. Though we be but fathers of their flesh we must be careful of their souls, otherwise we ruin them.

(1) Parents ought to instruct their children in the principles of religion, and to sow the seeds of godliness in their hearts, as soon as they are able to speak, and have the use of reason, Deuteronomy 6:6-7. Such early religious education is a blessed mean of grace, 1 Kings 18:12, compare 1 Kings 18:3. Not only is this the duty of fathers, who should teach their children, Proverbs 4:3-4, but of mothers, who, while the children are young about their hand, should be dropping something to them for their soul's good. Solomon had not only his father's lesson, but the prophecy his mother taught him, Proverbs 31:1. See Proverbs 1:8.

(2) They should labour for that end to acquaint them with the scriptures, 2 Timothy 3:15, to cause them to read them. Let the reading of their chapters be a piece of their daily task; and cause them read the scriptures in order, that they may be acquainted both with the precepts and histories of the Bible. Let them be obliged to learn their Catechism, and catechise them yourselves, according to your ability. For teaching by way of question and answer is most easy for them. (3) If they ask you any questions concerning these things, do not discourage them, but take pains to answer all their questions, however weakly they may be proposed, Deuteronomy 6:20-21. Children are often found to have very misshapen notions of divine things; but if they were duly encouraged to speak, they might vent their thoughts, which parents thus get occasion to rectify.

4thly, Labour to deter them from sin. The neglect of this was Eli's sin, for which God judged his house, 1 Samuel 3:13. Endeavour to possess their hearts with an abhorrence of sinful practices, and a dread of them. Carefully check their lying, swearing, cursing, or banning, and Sabbath-breaking. If they learn these while young, they will be fair to accompany them to gray hairs. Let them not dare to meddle with what is another man's, if it were not worth a farthing. Encourage them in taking up little things, and they may come in time to bring themselves to an ill end, and you to disgrace.

5thly, Stir them up to the duties of holiness, and the practice of religion. Often inculcate on them the doctrine of their sinful miserable state by nature, and the remedy provided in Christ. Shew them the necessity of holiness, pointing out Christ to them as the fountain of sanctification. Commend religion to them, and press them to the study of it, as the main thing they have to do in the world, Proverbs 4:4, etc.

6thly, Pray with them, and teach them to pray. For this cause let not the worship of God be neglected in your families: but for your children's sake maintain it. No wonder that those children seek not God who never see their parents bow a knee. Ye should take them alone, and pray with them, and teach them to pray, laying the materials of prayer often before them; and let them learn the Lord's

prayer, and use it as a form till such time as they can conceive a prayer by that directory. For though we do not think the Lord has bound us to that form, (if he has, the forms of the English liturgy are most impertinent, which intrude themselves on us, and do not leave us to it), yet that it may not be used as a prayer, or as a form, I know none that do affirm; though it is plain it is principally intended for a directory in prayer, Matthew 6:9.

Seventhly, and last. . .when ye have been at pains to instruct them in the principles of religion, and they have attained to a tolerable measure of knowledge, so that with judgment they may personally consent to the covenant, as a child religiously educated may be able to do betwixt nine and twelve years of age, if not before; it would be profitable to call them before you, and solemnly declare how ye have laboured to do your duty to them. . .and require them expressly to consent unto the covenant for themselves; taking them personally engaged to be the Lord's."