

Today we celebrate Mother's Day. A day in which women who gave birth to someone is celebrated and venerated today by the world. Even women who may not have children have been called to be a mother to the younger in the Church.

1 Timothy 5:1-2 Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; (2) The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity.

Titus 2:3-5 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; (4) That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, (5) To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Being a mother either by giving birth or by raising others to the Lord, we can all learn from Godly women.

Today, I want to talk about 1 Godly woman in particular. Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

This is the story...

1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of ^[a]Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. **2** And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children....

A) While today having no children is not a problem, being barren back then was. People got married for the purpose of having children. So, Hannah not having children caused her to feel inadequate.

³ This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there.

⁴ And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. ⁵ But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb....

A) Elkanah is a wonderful example of how to treat a woman. He knew the treasure he had.

⁶ And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷ So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat...

A) Hannah may have also been the second wife. Elkanah had Peninnah who had sons and daughters and then may have married Hannah for more children only to be barren. This provoking was not only against Hannah but may have been with Elkanah for making the wrong decision. Hannah exhibits restraint. It would have been very easy for her to cause a commotion. Yet, Hannah kept her mouth shut.

Proverbs 10:19 In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking; but he who holds back his lips is wise.

⁸ Then Elkanah her husband said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?” ⁹ So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh.

A) Elkanah again exhibits a strong love and encouragement for Hannah. Here again is a beautiful example of how to treat a woman. He wanted to assure her that he loved her with or without children.

Proverbs 25:11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the tabernacle of the LORD. ¹⁰ And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and wept in anguish. ¹¹ Then she made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head...”

A) Hannah reaction is priceless. I can assure you this was not the first time she prayed this prayer and yet she did not quit. She was a praying woman.

¹² And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. ¹³ Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴ So Eli said to her, “How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!” ¹⁵ But Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now....”

A) Hannah again exhibits not only when not to speak but when she speaks she speaks wisdom.

Proverbs 15:1-2 A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger. (2)
The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness.

¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.” ¹⁸ And she said, “Let your maidservant find favor in your sight.” So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad...

A) She was no longer sad but ate and went her way. No matter how many times she prayed she believed God was still hearing.

¹⁹ Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned and came to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, “Because I have asked for him from the LORD.”

A) Samuel – Sama= Hears El= God --- God Hears.

²¹ Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and his vow. ²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “*Not* until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the LORD and remain there forever...”

A) Hannah was not going to retract on her vows. She was a woman of her word.

²³ So Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the LORD establish His word.” Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him....

A) Elkanah though having Hannah for children trusted in God and in the decisions of his wife. This is only because he believed his wife to be a Godly and trustworthy woman.

²⁴ Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh. And the child *was* young. ²⁵ Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.

²⁶ And she said, “O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I *am* the woman who stood by you here, praying to the LORD. ²⁷ For this child I

prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition which I asked of Him. ²⁸ Therefore I also have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the LORD.” So they worshiped the LORD there.

A) While this may have been a bittersweet moment she knew that what she was doing was a blessing.

B) “Lent to the Lord.” The word Lent is usually translated asked or borrowed or demanded. We must remember that what we give to the Lord it is being Lent, because God does not only give it back to us but with interest. I can assure you the interest of the Lord is awesome! So, what we give to the Lord whether, money, time, energy, or whatever it is, is never in vain.

¹⁸ But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *even as* a child, wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice...

A) Hannah did not stop by just giving but also providing.

B) A bad habit that people have is stopping what they are doing once they get what they want. This stops further blessings.

²⁰ And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “The LORD give you descendants from this woman for **the loan** that was given to the LORD.” Then they would go to their own home.

A) Even Eli understood the concept of giving. For “the loan”.

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.

In conclusion,

- A) A woman of restraint.
- B) A woman of soft words.
- C) A woman of prayer.
- D) A woman of her word.
- E) A woman of sacrifice.
- F) A woman of God.
- G) A blessed woman.