

A Mother's Love:  
The Blessing and Price of Motherhood

❖ Key Scripture: 1 Samuel 2:1-11

➤ And Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the Lord;  
my horn is exalted in the Lord.  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
because I rejoice in your salvation.

2 “There is none holy like the Lord:  
for there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.

3 Talk no more so very proudly,  
let not arrogance come from your mouth;  
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,  
and by him actions are weighed.

4 The bows of the mighty are broken,  
but the feeble bind on strength.

5 Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,  
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.

The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.

6 The Lord kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

7 The Lord makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low and he exalts.

8 He raises up the poor from the dust;  
he lifts the needy from the ash heap  
to make them sit with princes  
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,  
and on them he has set the world.

9 “He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,  
for not by might shall a man prevail.

10 The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;  
against them he will thunder in heaven.

The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;  
he will give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.” 11

Then Elkanah went home to Ramah. And the boy[a] was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

❖ Motherhood Thoughts

- Every single one of us in this room has a mother.
  - Some good
  - Some bad

❖ We need to acknowledge how **important** motherhood is.

- Motherhood is all too often underestimated as a valuable role to hold.
- The Bible dedicates nearly an entire chapter to the role of a godly woman, who is a wife AND mother.

◆ Proverbs 31

❖ Mothers are also unfairly Judged

- Prov. 10:1, “A wise son makes his father glad, but a foolish son brings shame to his mother.”
- Prov. 15:20, “A foolish man despises his mother.”
- Prov. 29:15, “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”

❖ A Desperate Trust (Exodus 2:1-10)

- “Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. 4 And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. 5 Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby was crying.

She took pity on him and said, 'This is one of the Hebrews' children.' 7  
Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and call you a  
nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' 8 And  
Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Go.' So the girl went and called the  
child's mother. 9 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child  
away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the  
woman took the child and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she  
brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named  
him Moses, 'Because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'"

❖ Moses' Mother [Jochebed]

➤ Miraculous Help

- Hid a newborn for three months
- Placed in the water among the reeds
- Found by an unlikely, but influential person
- **Blessed** with the ability to hold and nurse him!
- Was even **paid** for the privilege!

❖ Foolishness or Faithfulness?

- That which looks like *foolishness* to the faithless is *faithfulness* to the Almighty

❖ Moses' Legacy

- Chosen by God to set His people free
- Chosen by God to deliver His Law to the people
- Made possible by the faithful sacrifice of his mother

❖ Hannah (1 Samuel 1:9-18)

- After they had eaten and drunk in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. 11

And she vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. 14 And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” 15 But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. 16 Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” 17 Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” 18 And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

#### ❖ Samuel

- Name means “name of God”
- Hannah **dedicated** him to the Lord
  - Trusted God to provide Samuel with a life and purpose beyond her ability.

#### ❖ Samuel's Legacy

- Prophet of God
- Anointed David as King of Israel
  - The Messianic lineage of Jesus Christ!
- Blessed by the **faithful dedication** of his mother.

#### ❖ Herodias - Mother of Manipulation (Mark 6:14-29)

- King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some said, "John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. That is why these miraculous powers are at work in him." 15 But others said, "He is Elijah." And others said, "He is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." 16 But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." 17 **For it was Herod who had sent and seized John and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because he had married her. 18 For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." 19 And Herodias had a grudge against him and wanted to put him to death. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he kept him safe.** When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed, and yet he heard him gladly.  
21 **But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday** gave a banquet for his nobles and military commanders and the leading men of Galilee. 22 **For when Herodias's daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests. And the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it to you."** 23 And he vowed to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half of my kingdom." 24 **And she went out and said to her mother, "For what should I ask?" And she said, "The head of John the Baptist."** 25 **And she came in immediately with haste to the king and asked, saying, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter."** 26 And the king was exceedingly sorry, but because of his oaths and his guests he did not want to break his word to her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him

in the prison 28 and brought his head on a platter and gave it to the girl, and the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard of it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.

❖ Herodias

- Held a personal grudge against John the Baptist
- Devised a wicked plan
- Ruined the lives of four people, including a righteous man and her own daughter, in implementing the plan

❖ Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ

- Often misrepresented historical figure
  - Mistakenly worshiped by some
  - Mistakenly ignored by some

❖ Mary, Re-examined

- A favored woman, but NOT perfect or to be worshiped
  - “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” (Luke 1:28).
  - “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33)

❖ Mary Willingly Surrendered to God’s Plan

- “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”  
(Luke 1:38)

❖ Distressed Mother

- Luke 2:42-50

- And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents[g] saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

➤ Matthew 12:46-50

- 46 While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers[a] stood outside, asking to speak to him. 48 But he replied to the man who told him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

❖ Jesus Blesses Mary

➤ John 19:26-27

- 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

❖ Legacy of Jesus Christ

- God in the Flesh
- Instituted the New Covenant
- Paid for the Sins of Mankind
- Risen from the Dead
- Savior and Lord of All
- King of Kings
- Lord of Lords

❖ Motherhood is Important!

- Each mother had an influence on their child.
- This is true for all mothers.

❖ Honor

- “Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.” Exodus 20:12
- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Ephesians 6:1-3