



SERMON SINGLES

Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

Model Mom

1 Samuel 1:1-28

NOTES INTRODUCTION So far in this series, we have talked to husbands, wives, and fathers. Today, we are going to talk to and about mothers. I know from both having one and being married to one that the dad may be the head of the home, but the mother is the heart of the home. I read one time where someone said, "A mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take." That being said, it's a tough task to be a mom, but thankfully Scripture gives us a great picture of what it looks like to be a model mom. In this message, we're going to look at this example and learn from this model mom how to navigate through the tough times of life in such a way that the peace of God will comfort you, the joy of God will bless you, and the power of God will strengthen you. **KEY POINTS** 1. In Your Frustration Serve The Lord In the midst of her biggest hurt and frustration, Hannah chose to continue to go to the temple and serve the Lord. We aren't told why the Lord up to this point had closed her womb, but here is one result. Hannah was driven to the point where she realized she was totally dependent on Him. She realized her hope was in God, her health was from God, and she had a heart for God. Too often we let the bad times, the tough times, and the hard times drive us to do exactly the opposite of what we ought to do. Instead of running to God, we run from God. Instead of going to church, we quit church. You may be going through one of the most frustrating times in your life right now. If you are, this would be my biblical counsel to you. Continue to serve the Lord. Continue to be an active part of the family of God. It's the best thing you can do in the midst of the toughest seasons in life. 2. In Your Desperation Seek The Lord Desperation is just frustration on steroids which was becoming increasingly unbearable to Hannah. In biblical days, if a woman could not have a child to continue the family line, it brought her great shame. In fact, people would wonder what sin or fault would cause God to close their wombs. Every day all Hannah had to do was just look at Peninnah or listen to her constant nagging and the knife in her heart just went in deeper. So what does this model mom do in this instance? "In her deep anguish, Hannah prayed to

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the Lord, weeping bitterly" (I Samuel 1:10).

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Hannah did not waste her barrenness, nor allow her bitterness to make a bad decision. She understood that her problems were designed by God to drive her in desperation to Him. God even used her biggest rival Peninnah to drive her into the hands of God. Model moms pursue God. They don't quit on God, because they know God will never quit on them.

3. In Your Celebration Surrender To The Lord

We have all experienced the joy of God answering our prayer, of God coming through, of God knowing the desires of our hearts. Those times cannot just be great times, but they can be dangerous times. If we are not careful it is in those times we forget the Lord.

There is a great lesson to learn there about anything you ever pray for. Whatever you ask from God, you should be willing to give back to God. Do you know why that is so important? Because if you don't, then what God gives you will become your idol. You must always show God that you love the Giver more than you love the gift. So even when you have something to celebrate, surrender that celebration to God and thank Him for answering your prayers, just like Hannah did.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1.	How do you normally react when you're frustrated? Do you draw closer to
	God, or do you distance yourself from Him?

2. When was a time you sought the Lord in desperation? What did you learn from that situation?

3.	Has God given you an answer to one of your prayers, but that answer is starting to turn into an idol? If so, pray and surrender that to Him today.

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