

Sermon: The godliness of Hannah
Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:1-17
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
May 13, 2018
Mother's Day
Pastor S.C. Brown

Elkanah packed up his big family for the trip to Shiloh, as they did every year.

What an exiting time it must have been.

A road trip is always so much fun.

Peninnah made sure all of her children had all of their things and were ready to go.

Hannah, whom Elkanah loved more....had no children. And this is how the story of the birth of Samuel begins.

A familiar story in biblical narrative.

God seems to like to raise up biblical heroes from this same kind of situation. Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and the wife of Manoah, and later Elizabeth.

But dealing with this year after year had gotten the best of Hannah. On and on it went, year after year.

But what a woman she was!

She knew her God. She trusted in the LORD.

She knew that **“the eyes of the Lord roam to and fro throughout the whole earth to give strong support to those whose hearts are blameless toward him.”**
2 Chronicles 16:9

Today, on **Mother’s Day**...I want to take a look at this amazing woman, Hannah and examine her life a bit.

I’ve been encouraged by her faith and godliness and it’s my hope that it will be a blessing to not just Mother’s, but all of us today.

So, if you have your Bible you will want to keep it open to chapters **1** and **2 of 1st Samuel**.

To make it clear and easy for us, let me give you the qualities up front about Hannah’s life that I see in these pages.

- 1. Faithful worshipper.** (verse 3,7,19,21,2:19)
 - 2. Fervently prays and fasts.** (verses 15 & 16)
 - 3. Firm understanding of holiness.** (verse 11, Numbers 6)
 - 4. Forwards her kids to the LORD.** (verses 11,22,28)
 - 5. Filled with thankfulness.** (2:1-10)
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I. Hannah is a faithful worshipper.

Notice that she is consistent, alongside of her husband to go to Shiloh year after year and sacrifice to and worship the LORD of hosts.

It says that in verse 3 and in verse 7. This isn't a lady who is hit and miss, but is faithful in her worship to God. And it shows later.

Again and again we see them going up to worship and even the last thing we hear about her is in chapter 2:19 where she is going up again with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Make no mistake about it, here is a woman worthy of our admiration for her faithfulness to worship God.

We might add that for us, we must never underestimate the power of being faithful week after week and year after year to worship God.

Sunday after Sunday, small group after small group.
Faithfulness!

What is the cumulative effect of faithfulness?
Can you put a price on being faithful to read the Bible, to pray, to fellowship with other believers week after week, year after year?

Continuing to put yourself in a place to hear from God and talk to God.

That's what Hannah did and that's what I commend to you. Hannah was a *faithful* worshipper.

II. Hannah fervently prayed and fasted.

verse 7 says the each year she would go up, she would be in distress due to Peninnah ridiculing her. And she would weep and not eat.

Now it seems from the story and the language that each year the whole big family would go up and celebrate and eat and drink...but, she would fast and weep.

On this occasion in our story, she is distraught. She's been fasting and praying and weeping.

Look in verse 10. It says, **“She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 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.’”**

So, she continues to pray in her heart, not really able to be heard, except by God.

Her lips are moving and Eli the priest sees her and he thinks she's drunk.

Such was the state of Eli, he couldn't even recognize fervent praying when he saw it.

Hannah says these beautiful words to him. **“I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD.”**

So, here's a woman for our admiration!

She is a faithful worshipper year end and year out.

She is a woman who is not afraid to pour out her soul to the LORD in fervent prayer and fasting and tears.

Hannah's heart was so broken that she would not eat food so that she could pray with God.
That is fasting.

There's a kind of fasting that people do called:
starvation!

This is where you think you will impress God by not eating.

No, fasting is doing *without* something so that you can spend that time with God in prayer and seeking his face.

Do you have any burdens today?
Any affliction you've been enduring for years?
Anything that is keeping you up at night?
Anything that is heavy on your heart?

Pour out your soul to the Lord in prayer and fasting and weeping like Hannah.

For **Psalm 34** says:

The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

So, Hannah is a faithful worshipper.
Hannah is a woman who goes to the LORD in Fervent prayer and fasting.

III. Hannah also has a Firm Understanding of Holiness.

She took the things of God seriously. To her, the worship of Yahweh was serious and not to be taken lightly.

How do we know this?

Well, a few ways. One is her theology that comes out in chapter 2...we will get to that.

But, we know she understands holiness because of the vow she made and the fact that she kept it.

Look at verse 11 again.

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.’”

This is the Nazarite vow from Numbers 6.

The Nazarite vow was a vow of holiness.

Nazarite means the word *consecrated* or *separate*.

A person set aside themselves for the LORD for a period of time to be HOLY or set apart. Like a long term fasting.

But Hannah goes above and beyond....and says that, if God will give her a son, he will be set apart for God ... all the days of his life.

Hannah goes above and beyond in areas of holiness. She vows a big vow...and keeps it. She firmly understands holiness. Think about it!

If you prayed for years to have a son and then finally God answers your prayers.....would you then give him up to the LORD....forever?

So, the vow she made and her willingness to keep it show that she's a woman of holiness.

She took the LORD and his word seriously. The LORD says, 'If you make a vow, keep it', and Hannah does this.

So, she's a:

- 1. Faithful worshipper.**
- 2. Fervently prays and fasts.**
- 3. Firmly understands holiness...and...**

IV. Hannah Forwards her kids to the LORD.

The LORD answered her prayer.

He heard her cry and by his grace, gave her a son. She named him Samuel, which is a lot like Shema, meaning 'to hear' and El meaning God. Shemael.

And instead of holding onto him for dear life after praying so long for him, she gives him to the Lord, forever. She forwards him on to God.

Look at verse 21 & 22.

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. 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."

Verse 28 says, **"Therefore, I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD."**

She knew what we need to be reminded of.

Our kids are a gift!

They are given to us by God.

Therefore, we are to simply **'forward'** them to God.

In fact, this is our main purpose as mothers and fathers.

We are to have these gifts under our care for a certain period of time...so that we can do what God said in **Deuteronomy 6.**

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise.

And then we...**forward them on to God.**

We give them to God.

They are his to do what he wants with them.

They are his for HIS calling not what we think they should do.

We surrender them to serve the LORD.

That's the best thing you can do Moms on Mother's Day. You can offer your kids over to the LORD for him to do what he wants with them. You can forward them on to God for his purposes.

So, she's a:

- 1. Faithful worshipper.**
- 2. Fervently prays and fasts.**
- 3. Firmly understands holiness**
- 4. Forwards her kids to the LORD.**

and lastly.....she....is a woman who is...

V. Filled with Thankfulness.

Let's take a look at chapter 2.

At some point, it seems that it is when she has dropped her boy Samuel off at the tabernacle to serve there forever....she breaks into a prayer of praise and **thanksgiving**, maybe it's even a song.

And it's powerful!

This prayer of Hannah and David's prayer in 2 Samuel 22 are like book ends of the books of Samuel.

In fact, Hannah's prayer in many ways sums up what goes on in the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles.

And it sounds similar to the virgin Mary's magnificat in the book of Luke.

Let me read it to you. You follow along in your Bible or on the screen.

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

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

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

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. The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. 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. "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. 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."

Mother's and all sisters in the LORD.....Father's and brothers...may all of us be more like Hannah.

- Are you living a life of **Faithful worship**?
- Are you living a life of **Fervent prayer and fasting**? Do you pour out your soul to God for the things that are heavy on your heart?
- Do you take the things of God seriously? Do you have a **Firm grasp on holiness**?
- Have you **Forwarded your children to God** to be what he wants them to be, even if they don't make much

money or people say they've not gone to a good school?

-Are we **Filled with thanksgiving?**

When God answers our prayers, it is easy to not celebrate but just move on.

But we should celebrate and say like Hannah,

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