

Hannah's Prayer

Mother's Day 5-8-2022

This Mother's Day we celebrate all moms, step moms, foster moms, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and even great-great grandmothers. I'd also like to honor those women who acted in a motherly way to those children who may not have had a loving mom in their life. Aunts, Teachers, mentors, neighbors,....

We need to celebrate what ALL these loving, compassionate women did to help us become what we are today. Thank You Mom.

Someone told me last Sunday that he felt like family when he walks through the doors of this house. I personally relate to what he said and I think that has to do a lot with the moms of this house. Moms that have been in the trenches of life and live to help others through difficult times.

While walking down the road of life we often reach a place of desperation, a place where all hope is gone and we can't find a solution to our problem. This was the case for a woman name Hannah.

Hannah- "gracious," "merciful," "one who gives," or "favored by god."

Hannah was a woman faced with two options: allow her circumstance to control her life by facing her challenge alone, or Go to God and trust Him to see her through her darkest days.

1 Samuel 1:1-2:11

1 Samuel 1 New King James Version

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 ^[b]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. 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. ⁶And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷So 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.

I. Hannah a woman like any other woman

1. It's easy to think that the heroes in the Bible were different than we are.
2. We might think that it's tough to relate to them.
3. Someone said, "Actually, the Bible is filled with real people with real problems, who face them with real faith".
4. The life of Hannah reminds us that we can't always control how we feel, but we can control what we do with those feelings.
5. Hannah was an ordinary woman who chose to come to God in her time of need.

II. Hannah's struggle

1. Hannah was barren; she was unable to have children.
2. Hannah was also harassed about being childless.

⁶And her rival (Peninnah her sister wife) also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷So 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.

It's important to understand that God did not endorse polygamy, that is having multiple wives. Judges 21:25 *During that period, there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what seemed right to them. (The Voice)*

3. Hannah was most likely Elkanah's first wife. He probably married Peninnah so that she would bare him children, however the bible says, He loved Hannah,

(v5, for he loved Hannah,...)

4. although Elkanah loved Hannah, he could not see her pain.
5. Her own husband did not understand her.

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?”

6. There are times when no one can see your deepest wounds.

7. Even Eli, the Priest did not understand her.

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and ^[d]wept in anguish. 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!”

III Her faith remained unmoved.

1. Hannah still had faith in God.

¹⁰ And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish.

2. God hears our desperate prayers.

3. When a woman of God prays, God hears her every word.

4. Mom, God is listening when you pray for your children. Never stop.

5. *The underlying message of the books of Samuel is, as in many other places in the Bible, that faith and trust in God are more important than any trust we place in human beings—even powerful human beings. (The Voice Notes)*

6. It could have been easy for Hannah to be angry with God.

7. However; She had the faith needed to stand up to the test she was facing.

There’s something about a mother’s prayer that cannot be explained.

8. You might be worried for your daughter, son, grandchildren or even greatgrandchildren.

9. Do what Hannah did trust God.

10. Shut down your adversary who has a plan to destroy you and your family.

11. As a daughter of God you have full access to His ear.

12. Be the intercessor your family needs today.

13. The Holy Spirit calls for all to come confidently before God's throne to receive Favor and grace through Jesus Christ. (NKJV MacArthur Study Bible, 2nd Edition)

Hebrews 4 New King James Version ¹⁶ *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

IV Her Faith was recognized.

1. God answered her prayer

2. ¹⁷ *Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him."*

3. Because of her faith she believed Eli and it says she was **no longer sad**.

4. She hadn't received the petition of her heart at that moment, yet she walked away with faith in her heart.

5. Hannah did conceive and she and Elkanah had a son, Samuel and later Samuel is becomes a prophet, judge, a wise leader of Israel and a symbol of answered prayer.

6. She later had three more sons and two daughters.

7. God still answer desperate prayers.

8. How he answers our prayers is totally in His hands.

9. Too often we fail to see the answer to our prayers because it doesn't look the way we expected when it does comes.

10. We must be willing to trust Him.

V Invite God's Favor and Grace to touch you today

1. Hannah was a woman of faith who became a mother.
2. She wasn't a super woman, yet she was a determined woman.
3. She was determined to leave her all at the altar before God.
4. She didn't let the setbacks of life shake her faith in God.

5. God always meets us in our desperate places and it will be for His Glory.

Invitation

1. Remember to honor your mother today and every day.
2. Following God and doing his will is the greatest honor you can give her.

Mothers... first, make sure you have a close and growing personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Then, do all in your power to pass that on to your children!

Conc: Over 2000 years ago a nation in desperation pleaded with God to deliver them from a harsh Roman rule, God's answer was so much more than they asked for; He delivered the world from sin and opened the door of Salvation.

So don't give up. Keep praying. God hears you. Don't be surprised if your answer comes in an unexpected way.