

HANNAH'S CONSECRATION (MOTHER'S DAY LESSON)

BIBLE TEXT : I Samuel 1:1-28

LESSON 71 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:2, 3).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

1 Samuel 1:1-28

¹ Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name *was* Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:
² And he had two wives; the name of the one *was* Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.
³ And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, *were* there.
⁴ And when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:
⁵ But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.
⁶ And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.
⁷ And *as* he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.
⁸ Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weapest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? *am* not I better to thee than ten sons?
⁹ So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I A Faithful Mother in Israel

- 1 She was the wife of Elkanah, I Samuel 1:1
- 2 She had no children, I Samuel 1:2
- 3 Elkanah and his family worshiped God according to His commandment, I Samuel 1:3, 4;
Deuteronomy 12:5-7 ⁵ But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, *even* unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come:
⁶ And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:
⁷ And there ye shall eat before the LORD your God, and ye shall rejoice in all that ye put your hand unto, ye and your households, wherein the LORD thy God hath blessed thee.
- 4 Hannah suffered much persecution, I Samuel 1:5-8;
2 Timothy 3:12 ¹² Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.
1 Peter 2:23 ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:
James 5:10-11 ¹⁰ Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.
¹¹ Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

II A Vow unto the Lord

- 1 Her heart was troubled and she prayed to God, I Samuel 1:9, 10;
Psalms 61:1-4 ¹ Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.
² From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock *that* is higher than I.
³ For thou hast been a shelter for me, *and* a strong tower from the enemy.
⁴ I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.
Psalms 66:18 ¹⁸ If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*.
- 2 She sought God earnestly for the desire of her heart, I Samuel 1:11-16;
Genesis 32:24-25 ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.
²⁵ And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.
2 Chronicles 15:15 ¹⁵ And all Judah rejoiced at the oath: for they had sworn with all their heart, and sought him with their whole desire; and he was found of them: and the LORD gave them rest round about.
Psalms 38:9 ⁹ Lord, all my desire *is* before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.
- 3 Hannah received the witness that her prayer was heard, I Samuel 1: 17, 18;
Hebrews 11:4 ⁴ By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.
Romans 8:16 ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
- 4 The Lord remembered her, I Samuel 1:19, 20;
Isaiah 59:1 ¹ Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it

had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

¹⁰ And she *was* in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

¹¹ And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

¹² And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

¹³ Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken.

¹⁴ And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

¹⁵ And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I *am* a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

¹⁶ Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto.

¹⁷ Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant *thee* thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

¹⁸ And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more *sad*.

¹⁹ And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

1 Peter 3:12 ¹² For the eyes of the Lord *are* over the righteous, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

John 9:31 ³¹ Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Genesis 32:28 ²⁸ And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

III Payment of the Vow

1 Her heart was fixed in its purpose, I Samuel 1:21-23;

Genesis 22:1-8 ¹ And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, *here I am*.

² And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

³ And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

⁴ Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

⁵ And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

⁷ And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering?

⁸ And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Hebrews 10:7 ⁷ Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

2 The consecration-offering was made, I Samuel 1:24, 25;

Leviticus 27:28 ²⁸ Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, *both* of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing *is* most holy unto the LORD.

Deuteronomy 23:21 ²¹ When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

Ecclesiastes 5:4 ⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for *he hath* no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

3 The testimony of Hannah was revealed, and the faithfulness of her God acknowledged, I Samuel 1:26, 27;

1 Thessalonians 5:24 ²⁴ Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

Revelation 19:11 ¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

4 She placed Samuel in the Lord's keeping, I Samuel 1:28;

Proverbs 22:6 ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 ⁷ Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

⁸ For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

1 John 3:21 ²¹ Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, *then* have we confidence toward God.

Mark 5:22-43 ²² And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet,

²³ And besought him greatly, saying, My little daughter lieth at the point of death: *I pray thee*, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.

²⁴ And *Jesus* went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, *saying*, Because I have asked him of the LORD.

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, *I will not go up* until the child be weaned, and *then* I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD, and there abide for ever.

23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the LORD establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child *was* young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, *as* thy soul liveth, my lord, I *am* the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD.

27 For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there.

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

34 And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's *house certain* which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James.

38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.

Matthew 15:22-28 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

NOTES:

Hannah's Cry from Her Heart

"She spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard." Hannah had lived a godly life: she had gone to the House of God to worship, and had made her outward consecrations, and had done all that the Law required. But this day she was making a deeper consecration than she had ever made before, and it brought results.

Women of her day bore a reproach for childlessness, and Hannah was deeply grieved as she asked of God a son. She had no doubt prayed this prayer before; but as time went by and her desire was not granted, her prayers became more earnest. So earnest were they that no words could frame her petition — only her heart cried out unto the Lord. From her innermost being she

prayed, and God heard her cry.

Hannah's prayer was deep: she suffered, and she was "in bitterness of soul, ... and wept sore." Hannah poured out her heart and vowed that if God would give her a son she would lend him to the Lord all the days of his life. She made a covenant with God by sacrifice. God knew she meant what she said, and He granted her request.

Consecration to Obtain Answer to Prayer

We, too, must make consecrations in order to get an answer to our prayers. When we come seeking God for salvation we cry out as the jailer who witnessed the miraculous deliverance of Paul and Silas from prison: "What must I do to be saved?" He was willing to give all to know Christ; and so we give all we know to give when we come to Him in repentance.

But after we are saved we soon realize there are greater consecrations to make in order to be sanctified wholly. Paul spoke to the Romans: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which, is your reasonable service" (Romans 12:1). God calls upon us to make deep consecrations that will bring holiness into our lives; and when we get our hearts into that condition through a complete surrender to His will, He lets the fire fall upon the sacrifice, completing the work of sanctification.

That does not end consecration. As we continue to walk in the light, we are taught to go deeper in yielding to God. There is a yearning in our hearts for the abiding presence of the Comforter who comes in when we are baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. We give our all to the Lord, as best we can: our loved ones, our homes, our lives in His service. As our consecrations increase, so does our faith; and when we come to the place of full surrender, faith grasps the promise and the glory floods our soul. God honors His Word and sends the Holy Spirit to fill the empty vessel that has been purified made white, and tried.

The Light in the Church

But still there is need for more consecration. There must be a daily yielding up of self to God in order to keep the fire burning in the heart. The world is fast becoming darker, and the child of God must let the oil burn brightly in his vessel if he hopes to be a beacon to the lost to guide them to a place of safety in Christ.

Some say they are justified, sanctified, and have received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and are ready for Heaven. But they do not seem to realize the responsibility that goes with those wonderful experiences. "None of us liveth to himself" (Romans 14:7). The Church has a responsibility to shine in this sin-benighted world. And those who are letting down on their consecrations, or drawing back from the Lord, are very dim lights.

The Psalmist sings: "The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined" (Psalm 50:1, 2). Spiritual Zion is Christ's Church, the Church of the First-born, and His people must first shine individually in order to give glory to the Church, and radiate it into the world.

What an encouragement it is to meet a man or woman who is wholly consecrated to the Lord! The Spirit of God in their lives radiates. God has adorned such lives with spiritual adornment: "I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels" (Isaiah 61:10).

Paying Vows

Too many people make consecrations who when the time comes to fulfill their promises draw back. But Hannah had vowed a vow unto the Lord, and did not defer to pay it. She did not wait until her son grew up before she returned him to the Lord, so that she might enjoy his youthful presence in her home; but as soon as he was weaned she took him to the priest, Eli, and offered her precious child for holy service. She loved that child of promise, but she loved God more, and she knew that God, too, loved Samuel.

God loves the consecrated heart, and longs for devoted service; but He does not want anything we have if we are not wholly yielded to Him. He said He owned the cattle on a thousand hills, and if He were hungry He would not tell us. God wants us to give Him a devotion that will make us pliable in His hands and will permit Him to work out His plan in our lives. Oh, that we might say with David, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart"! (Psalm 40:8).

Timer Consecration

God is calling for that inner consecration that will crucify the flesh that will not count our lives dear unto death; that will plead daily for His abiding presence, a continual communion with our Maker. Paul said to the Christians of Colosse: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Colossians 3 :3); and to the Corinthians he said, "For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of *Jesus* might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" (II Corinthians 4:11), The beauty of the inward consecration can hardly be expressed in words, but is understood and treasured by those who are pressing into God for His very best.

Suffering with Christ is easily borne by the consecrated life. In the natural, Hannah's separation from her first-born would have caused her great grief; but she had wholly given him unto the Lord, and had made the supreme consecration of her desires; and God gave her courage to fulfill her vow.

When Jesus calls upon His children to suffer a little for His sake, they sometimes shrink from the trial, **or** complain against God. He may be permitting the testing to reveal whether the consecrations made in the hour of need were really meant from the heart. Those who allow the trial to work out what is needful in their lives are the ones who enjoy the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Fragrance from the Crushed Rose

If you desire real fragrance from a rose, crush the petals and the fragrance will flow out. The same thing is true of the children of God. Crush them with trial, affliction, suffering, and out of that crushed life Will come forth sweetness and beauty that will be a blessing to others. Every Blood-washed saint who weathers the storm and makes the heavenly port will thank God through all eternity for the guiding of His mighty hand, and will say then, if not now, "His ways are best." No one would draw back from His guidance if he could comprehend the glory that is to be revealed in that day. Many, through test and trial, have blossomed into the most useful, unselfish, and consecrated lives for God.

Hannah's Reward

As a result of Hannah's consecration, one mother's wholehearted service to God, the Israelitish nation enjoyed the wisdom and spiritual guidance of one of the greatest prophets. She taught her son obedience in the home, and a fear of God, which prepared him to answer, when God called: "Speak; for thy

servant heareth."

Think what it would have meant to Israel if there had not been a consecrated man ready to "take up the torch" when Eli was about to let the lamp of God go out. God has always had someone whom He could trust, someone who would "stand in the gap" when it seemed Christianity was about to die. Who today is making the consecration that will win God's confidence, that will prepare him to stand in the hour of need and say, "Here am I; send me"? "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart" (Ephesians 6:6)

Godly Mothers Needed Today

Godly mothers, present-day Hannahs, are greatly needed in the world in these perilous times. Lack of respect for parental authority, and subsequent disregard for the laws of God and man have brought upon the land a tide of juvenile delinquency with which our ablest law-enforcing groups have been unable to cope. The solution to the problem is a re-establishment of godly homes in which a child may be trained in the way he should go.

How refreshing an experience it is to view the life of a woman who has loved God and cared enough for her children to teach them the truths of God's Word! The peace and blessing of Heaven rest upon the mother and her family who follow this course. The love of God in the heart of a mother bids her be concerned about the ways of her household (**Proverbs 31:27** ²⁷ *She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness*), and employ diligence in the rearing of her children that they may be wise unto salvation (**2 Timothy 3:15** ¹⁵ *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus*) and not sin against God (Psalm 119:11 **Psalms 119:11** ¹¹ *Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee*).

QUESTIONS

- 1 What characteristic was apparent in the home of Hannah?
- 2 What was required of Hannah in order that she might receive the desire of her heart?
- 3 What must we do to get an answer to our prayers?
- 4 Did Hannah consider her vow to God important?
- 5 Did she put off payment of her vow as long as possible?
- 6 What is the cause of juvenile delinquency?
- 7 How does the Bible say parents should bring up their children?