

"A MOTHER WHO PRAYED"

I Samuel 1

INTRODUCTION:

Samuel was a traditional figure in Israel's history. He bridged the gap between the period of the judges and the monarchy - or the days of the kings. In a sense, he was the last of the greatest judges to reign and the first among the kings. He was truly one of God's great men. He ranks with men like Abraham, Moses, Isaiah.

Now he was not a great military leader like David. He had great earthly wisdom like Solomon. He was not a great builder or conqueror.

One of the great things about this man -- he had a mother who prayed. And this is the product of a good home. I want to talk to you tonight about prayer. The stewardship of prayer as in the life of Hanna. And then I want to make some prayer observations. And last of all, give you some prayer lessons that we can discover from this good woman.

By way of introduction, I want to point out some of the great qualities of Samuel.

I Sam. 3:19-21 - Samuel grew and the Lord was with him. He let none of his words fall to the ground. And Israel knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord. The Lord revealed himself to Samuel by the word of the Lord.

I Sam. 12:1-5 - We read again--that here was a man who listened to the word of God. He said, here I am. Witness against me. He said, whose ox have I taken, whose ass have I taken. Or whom have I defrauded. Whom have I depressed. Or of whose hand have I received any bribe. To blind mine eyes therewith and I will restore it. And they said, thou has not defrauded us nor depressed us. Neither hath thou taken off any man's hands. And he said unto them - the Lord is witness against you. And his anointed was witnessed this day. That ye have not found aught in my hand and he answered - he is witness.

There were many things that were significant that we need to remember about Samuel. He established several seminaries in Israel. He led Israel away from idolatry. He prayed and the dread Philistines were brought into subjection. He anointed the first two kings of Israel.

But his greatness did not lie in these accomplishments. His whole life was led by the spirit of God.

And I think all of this goes back to his home. People are largely products of their home. Home, sometimes produces criminals. The way people live - the

way they are brought up. What kind of home is it that produces spirituality and stability. Well, it was the quality of home that Samuel was brought up in.

A very prominent American declared one time - that he did not know of a single institution working for the betterment of mankind, that was not founded by a man who had a praying mother. Now that is a strong statement. And Samuel came out of a home where the parents loved one another. Chapter 1:5, 8. Despite all the complications, there was every reason to believe the date of his birth - shared the warmth of this relationship of love. Now, tonight I cannot over emphasize that love needs to be in the home. Parents must love each other.

This provides a wonderful example. Parents must love their children.

If you would desire to stay here all night - we could discuss with you all night the hundreds of stories about the absence of this spirit in the homes that I have been permitted to touch. I have tried to counsel with numerous unhappy lives. Many marriages that have been in trouble in the days of my ministry. And I can almost easily trace the early home life and the expressions of love, and the climate of no harmony in these situations. And the reasons why this happens is - there is the absence of love and the absence of prayer. Now Hanna was a praying mother. And she practiced the stewardship of prayer.

I read a story about a group of women who were talking about when they should begin to train their children. One believed that it should be at the age of despression - or say - about six.

Another one believed, that it should be when the child began to talk.  
And another person said, that it should begin when the child was born. An old grandmother who was listening - and she observed this -- begin the training of your child twenty years before it is born.

Did you get it. The emphasis is upon the importance of the mother. God was looking for a man to lead his people in a critical condition that existed at the end of the period of the judges of Israel - and Israel was being over run by the Philistines. Moral decay had set in as is illustrated in Chapter 2:12, 17, and 22. The children of the priest even commit adultery. They abhor the sacrifices of the Lord. Because they disliked the worship of God. They taught the people to hate the worship of God. A change had to be brought in and it needed some strong man to do it. And God needed a man that he could trust.

You think today, it sounds very much like mothers today. They are training their children (against) the worship of God. And they never come to worship themselves. One item that every mother ought to have on her calendar every week - is to be in the house of God for worship. God needed a man whom he could trust. He was literally looking here and there through Israel for such a man. He could find none. Therefore, he set out to prepare a mother.

God prepared Hanna. She was a woman of faith and of prayer. And she withheld her desire until she got to the temple and began to pray. God was disciplining this mother. She was childless. And among the Jewish women, that was a sign of reproach. A symbol of condemnation. And Hanna resorted to prayer and yet her hope was the third through the years and it was certainly something

that tried this great and good woman.

The greatest thing a woman can do is give a Godly, trained, up-right man to this world.

Hanna's faith in God was part of the preparation of the birth of Samuel. Now people who are materialistic instead of being spiritual - become hardened and embittered. When children come into a materialistic home, they often create more problems than they solve.

In order to believe in prayer - we must believe in the God of the Bible who is self-existent. You cannot believe in God without knowing who God is, or believe in the Bible. You must believe that God is a co-laborer and we bring our prayer list to him.

And if you have a prayer list and you check it off - you will discover that God answers hundreds of prayers, as you mark them off. In the little details of living a happy life.

What I want to get across to you about the stewardship of prayer in this home is, that this was a religious home and that it took religion seriously.  
Worship was practiced.

Prayer was practiced.

If a home is going to produce children of righteousness - then religion must be practiced and it must be taught in the home. The family members - there must be a Bible and it must be read. And the daily prayers must be practiced. And the daily problems of life must be prayed about.

And underscore church must be a family affair. It is one of the most inspiring sights to the angels in Heaven. A father and mother, with their children, seated together in church in worship - every Lord's day. I mean every Lord's day. Not hit or miss - rain or shine - but I mean who practice and make this a part of the stewardship of life.

Now Hanna believed that God could and would answer and help her with her problem.

Samuel was an answer to prayer. Now this ought to help every mother who reads this story - to know about parenthood and their responsibility. She realized that her son was given her in answer to prayer. And she was willing to do certain things because of this. Every parent should realize this. We are to return them to God and we are to rear them to bring glory and honor to God's name.

Dear mother tonight, is not your greatest hope for your child - that he will love and serve Jesus, and will become what God wants him to become.

Now some of you mothers may be listening to me, you may not have come from

the right kind of a home. Do not feel that your life is hopeless. God can transcend, he can transform, all who will surrender to him.

→ They tell us that over 4 million girls in the United States have been named after Mary in the Bible. She was clearly one of the most favorite of women. And yet Mary must have received her inspiration from Hanna, this Old Testament mother.

As you look at her son, you realize that he was a great man and had great influence. He was one of the most outstanding men of the Old Testament. Yet, Hanna was almost not a mother. Had not the Lord favored her and given her a child. She is a model mother.

Let us now see if we can pinpoint one or two things. Let's talk about some observations of prayer here. And then we'll come to some lessons on prayer.

#### I. OBSERVATIONS OF PRAYER

✓ First sorrow - V. (1-10) Hanna had a husband and a home. But she didn't have a happy place - because she did not have a son.

In this day of easy (abortion), and countless (unwanted) children - it is perhaps hard for us to understand the deep sorrow of this Jewish mother.

V. 7-8 - She bore the stigma of being barren.

She was looked upon with disfavor. Even by her husband and family. They felt ill toward her in V. 10. Her husband tried to console her but she wept bitterly. She was distressed. She even thought God was deaf to her weeping.

Hanna in her sorrow, kept asking why God, oh why.

We sometimes ask, why does God allow us to get into some difficult situation. Why does God seem to ignore us. And to allow these things to come. Well, perhaps, he was preparing us as Hanna. He needed a man who would be a leader, and he first had to prepare the mother. He is going to use Hanna and he is going to use her son to bless a nation. You ought to keep in mind, that some better things were in store for this mother - for she bore five more children. And sometimes heavy burdens may help us. That is, if we bear our weight in the proper way.

✓ Second, supplication V. 11-18. This is another observation that we need to make about prayer. Hanna was sorrow stricken - V. 12-13. She poured out her soul before God. She felt this was taking the last step.

She came before the altar - her lips moved silently in desperation. She knew that this was her last resort and she was willing to do anything that God wanted her to do. That her prayer might be answered. Her supplication became a self-giving.

Think of this! - whenever a mother comes to the place that she is willing to

do anything that God wishes, then God answers her prayers! Would it not be well for you as a mother tonight, to begin to think about this. If you really want God to do something - and if you will give yourself to God first, God will begin answering your prayers. It may be that some of you as a mother have prayed - but you are not convinced in this way.

The reason we do not get through to God sometimes is - we do not want this bad enough. In the supplement for Hanna - they were not vague or in generalities. She didn't pray aimlessly or thoughtlessly. She did not pray to impress Eli nor did she pray to impress her husband. She prayed for one specific thing - she wanted this and she prayed fervently.

Sometimes we are guilty of our prayers being so vague. Hanna expected results.

V. 13 - It says that she prayed - but her lips moved - but there was no sound.

Now this is a good point here for us to understand here about prayer. I read several years back about an incident that happened - and there was a prayer group in progress. And one of the members began to cry like a Chinese mourner. She prayed and spoke as though God were deaf. She clapped her hands, she kicked her feet. She startled everyone in the group. She made herself a circus. She told God exactly what to do - and to do it in a hurry.

Now God, you know that some of these people are babies here. And it happens oh God, that Laura here is a hard case. You know that she smokes, and she curses, and she swears. And even there are others in the room without mentioning their names - if you will just break through the clouds and cleanse them.

And then she shouted Hallelulah. And it seems that there was a storm. She prayed for Albert who drinks and who gambles. And who laughs at her and at Jesus.

And when she paused for her breath, one of the others in the room said - he felt like Jer. in 32:27. And he said to her that everybody should begin to sing the song she wanted. As she ranted and tried to hymotize all the others. And this person said - stop, this is enough. Jesus Christ said let there be no confusion in this room. In the hearts of these that are assembled. And there was silence.

Now this is the thing as Eli looked on. Here was a woman who prayed. And her supplication was going up without even making a sound.

Third, sacrifice. This we ought to observe in V. 19-28. That her joy was evident. Hanna prayed in V. 11 - Lord, if you will - I will. If you will give me a child, I will give him to you. I will give him to you all the days of his life. And we will not cut his hair and the traditions of his father will

be upheld. He will learn in the temple.

She spoke of a solemn pledge before God. And she made this in the depths of her own soul. She asked God for a son. She named him Samuel - V. (20) - which means ask of the Lord. Now she has promised to keep her word. To Hanna, a promise meant something. It meant a debt unpaid. She had asked for a son - God had given a son. And now she must give him back. There was a little sorrow mingled with her joy. As she realized the sacrifice that must be made in V. 21.

To see him (leave home) at a young age and go to the temple - V. (22) - was hard. For the long awaited first born son. But she had made the vow before God. She would fulfill that pledge.

People in times of crisis make promises that they don't mean to keep. Some times in domestic difficulties or in times of ill health, or financial struggle - we promise all sorts of things to God. If only he would see us through this one time. How many promises have been made and broken because no one but God has lived to see the proof. Is it any wonder that the man Samuel knew how to pray.

Is there any wonder that he (became) a prophet of God - a (leader) of men. Is it any wonder a small boy - he heard the (voice) of God, and answered - speak Lord for thy servant heareth.

With a mother like Hanna to pray for him all the days of his life, is it

any wonder that he became one of Israel's notables.

V. 24-28 - Hanna gave up her most treasured thing in her life. She had made her sacrifice - her son. He heard God's voice. Will you children learn to pray.

If no prayers are ever uttered in your home - mother, let me ask you, will your children know God,

If no vows are made and kept, mother, will your children know the meaning of a promise. Hanna, mark you, didn't know anything about mother's day. That experience has recently come into being. Hanna is the one that created (mother's day.) Why in Chapter 2:19 - she brought a new coat to Samuel at the temple. She sacrificed there - all the year, and worked on that coat, so that he would have a new one each year to wear under the garments in the tabernacle.

If you are that kind of a mother in the home, then your child is going to come to know God. You are a wonderful mother when your children hear you pray.

You are a wonderful mother when your children hear of the Lord.

You are a wonderful mother when your children see you take their place in the house of worship, of God.

Have we done as Hanna. And layed it all on the altar.

It is never, never too late to put it all on the altar for God.

There are so many rich prayer lessons here for us in this story and in this chapter. And let us see if we can discover some of the truths that are here.

## II. SOME PRAYER LESSONS

First, persistence in prayer. The first thing that we want to notice about her prayer life is that she prayed with persistence. Too often our requests to God are shallow. They lack the deep fervor. Hanna prayed more than (Polly want a cracker) type of petition. The things she was asking for was of vital importance. She poured out her heart. The Bible says that she spake in her heart and only her lips moved. Which indicates that she was strong as she petitioned God for a child. The priest seeing this felt that she was (ntoxicated). Throughout the New Testament, one of the emphasis on prayer is the necessity of persistence. Jesus said, ask, and it shall be given you. Seek and ye shall find. Knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Matt. 7:7. He used the verb which indicates continuous action. If you take a literal understanding of it - it would read like this. Keep on asking, and you will receive. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking and it will be opened to you.

Another way to illustrate (Jacob) while wrestling with the Lord - held on and would not let go. Until he was promised a blessing. The history of Christianity is filled with men and women who refused to cease praying, until they

are certain that they have a victory.

Therefore the nature of her prayer was persistence, Fervent. Her lips moved. Her voice silent. And the aged Eli thinking that she was intoxicated. But Eli observed her in the bitterness of her soul - weeping, and praying before the Lord. He thought that she was one of the women that just lounged around before the tabernacle. And he says, put thy wine away from thee. Her lips moved. But there was no voice. James said, the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. And this is the promise of Jesus as I have noticed. But too much of praying is careless, cold, unmoved and unmoving.

How do you pray. Do you merely kneel down before retiring and mumble a few things, into your pillow before you go to bed.

Do you merely pray a few certain prayers from time to time. Or do you have time to pray through on a prayer list, or intelligently present to God your requests to God that you are moved by a desire that you are caused to be persistent in your prayer. She did not pray and then run off and forget it.

*Mr Lucian SAVARD 1964 gave Birth 2 6<sup>th</sup> child  
130 mi N. Quebec City - Husband found Roger  
Family travels - Rent a Bus.*

Second, persecuted. No children Hanna prayed through her persecution. In that day, God allowed men to have more than one wife. There was never a part of his origin plan. And it seems that here is a terrible lesson of the Old Testament, because the other wife mocked her so much that it became a problem. Hanna had been refused - she had grown bitter. And this had developed in her life.

She was persecuted even when they accused her of being full of wine.  
And that could be considered persecution.

But Hanna prayed through - even though she was persecuted.

There will be people who misunderstand you. When you take up a prayer  
life.

✓ Third, pledge. She prayed with a pledge. She not only prayed with  
persistence, and even though she was persecuted - but she prayed with a pledge.  
To ring a promise from a person, when he has a serious problem can be very  
dangerous. But one cannot bargain with God. We make our decisions concerning  
our spiritual life, because promises are made under pressure are seldom kept.

On the other hand, this was not that kind of promise. Hanna had (no child.)  
She offered to give the child to the Lord for dedicated service. He would give  
her one. Now this is different from a man who promises the Lord - to grant him  
such and such a desire. Well, I'll begin to go to church. Or I'll quit running  
around with some woman who he has no business being with in the first place.

Now Hanna's pledge was one of positive dedication for the good of the  
kingdom of God.

This kind of a pledge is worthy of God and God delights in it.

Why Hanna expressed herself here, she was not day-dreaming. Undoubtedly she had prayed at home. And without a doubt, she had come to the tabernacle and the temple and had prayed. Not in a passive believer's way - but one who lays hold on the promises of God. And does so with such faith. That she makes a pledge.

Today we have a Bible full of promises which are most remarkable and which cover the full extent of human living. We can take these promises as a bank check from God, and cash them in by faith - claiming them, they would be ours. Mark 11:24 says - whatsoever things we desire, we are to believe that we have received them - and we will have them. Let us not miss this pledge. The foundation of it was - herself's dedication. I Sam. 10:11 - the nature of prayer which she prayed - she vowed unto the Lord if he would answer her prayer, give her a man child - that she would dedicate him to the Lord all the days of his life. This meant that Hanna would have to return the child which God would give her - in dedication and lose him as soon as he was just a young boy, to serve the Lord.

Now this illustrates to us her (consecration) In answer to her prayer. And it illustrates also the dedication of the (woman). Hanna was now in the place where God could answer her prayer, and remember for 20 years or more she had gone on without failure. And at last he had heard and God had promised.

The fourth thing I want to say is - she performed. Everything about this Biblical account indicates that Hanna was a woman of (integrity). Truthfulness - you could believe in her.

She named her child Samuel. " Ask him of the Lord. " After the child was born - she resolved just as soon as possible, to bring him to the house of the Lord and let him abide there.

When Hanna brought Samuel to Eli - she identified herself. She told him who she was. Told him that she had a (debt) to God. And that she needed to lend him to the Lord as long as he lived.

This we understand that it is a serious thing when you make a promise. We obligate ourselves to perform. And the Lord granted their desire. The Psalmist said what shall I render unto the Lord in exchange for all of his benefits - I will pay my vows unto the Lord. Psalm 116:14.

Hanna believed the Lord and immediately ceased her grief and fretting. And (found joy) Her countenance was no more sad. And in due time - that son was born. I Sam. 2:1-10 he was brought. Little did anyone know of the future of this child when he was born. Of his ministry, what he would perform, or the greatness of the office he would hold.

Only the name - of God. He carried this throughout his life.

Do you know the faith of the mother and the father are expressed in the lives of their children. I can imagine in the early days - Hanna cottled and nestled the child. She taught him what truths he needed. She instructed him

X  
to care for himself. That when she presented him to the temple that he would know something about the ways of God.

I believe they were days of pleasure in that home. As Hanna enjoyed Samuel, trained him, and looked forward to the day that she was going to dedicate him in the tabernacle.

She made up her mind that she would not return for the yearly sacrifice until Samuel was old enough to become a minister of Eli in God's house.

When Samuel was a child with some degree of independence, she took a very liberal offering with her, and brought him and offered thanksgiving in the house of the Lord. And there left the child with the aged Eli. Oh my Lord, as I so liveth, my Lord - I am the woman that stood by thee here - praying unto the Lord. For this child, I prayed. And the Lord hath give me my petition. Which I ask of him. Therefore, I also, I have lent him to the Lord so long as he liveth. Thus Hanna and Samuel worshipped the Lord. I Sam. 2:22. She put her faith in God and his promise - and she let Samuel in the center of a corrupt world - believing that God would reveal himself to Samuel. And she returned to her home. That must have been a very lonely trip. But God accepted her sacrifice - Chapter 2:21. Hanna followed Samuel with her prayers - V. 18, year by year she brought him a garment to wear. Homespun but made with her own hands of the precious wool from her husband's flock. And Samuel put on that garment and felt of it - and thought of his mother. He thought of her prayers. And before him came an anchor of hope that he would be protected from the temptations of the sinful world. Because Hanna had entrusted him to the Lord.

In due season, the Lord appeared unto Samuel, and the word of the Lord was made known unto him. He was brought up in a Godly environment. And God appeared to him in the house of God. And mothers today, if you want your children to hear God's voice, you had better rush them to the house of God. Hanna must have died - as we well know and understand a prophet. He wore a garment like unto that which his mother had made.

She took part in the deliverance of Israel.

7 — Let me ask you one or two personal questions - what place will your child take in the leadership of the church.

7 — Will it be a result of your prayers and your faith, that your child has some prominent place in God's kingdom of work. What are you making of that child that God gave you.

✓ — Are you a worthy mother. At this time to see and to pray for his success. Will your child look back with gratitude on his home. His family, and say, I thank God for my mother.

This is what Samuel did in I. Samuel 7:17, 25 and V. 1.

There are so many precious lessons and observations of prayer here.

We could go on and on.

Let me note, just in closing - one or two ideas for you to think about.

First, for one thing if you are a mother, you should never despair when you are discouraged. God knows all about your plight. But God has resources that are sufficient to meet your needs.

Second, prayer does not go unheeded. If you are a Godly person, God is going to answer your prayer. I have seen results of this, in the past few days.

I witnessed in the life of a young woman some radical marvelous changes. And I purely believe that it was the result of someone's prayer.

Another thing to remember is that your prayer - to be answered, must be for the advancement of God's kingdom. If you pray right, if you will pray what needs to be done is going to advance the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, then it will be granted.

No one has a right to pray for anything that will not, if it is granted, not bring a person unto God's rule and God's way.

The last thing to remember, is that you will find great joy if you can make a place in your heart to promise God and make a great pledge like this mother.

I think to do this, is the highest achievement in one's life.

From Carole - lived 1795-1851 - first marriage.

Marr - 1824 - sec - pro matri

Abandoned party -

Carroll -

Red - seldom the spirit -

Company - farming land - mud sleep -

land - draw word in Red - working, chance to do it differently

Red - "praising the spirit on to, with me it is war like heaven, it love him so"

It not returned what the spirit meant.

2 days - "I have intended all day to hear the singer in the hall, but now I'm late & I guess to wait some other day"

Back down - can not - find good time found in mud-eye Red.

There - "I ~~was~~ had only known, I had only known - too late"

I tell you the story hope you would make some mistakes -

With our loved ones on ship, its done from - Terminal Terminal, Franklin & Sam -