

THE CALL OF MOTHERHOOD

Houses of Light Church • May 7-8, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Sam. 1:27-28

“For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.”

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. It seems inconceivable to us what is happening right now in the US, that a society and more specifically mothers can ruthlessly annihilate their babies and call this a "right" that is defended tooth and nail with the greatest impudence. A society that applauds the murder of its children is in obvious decline. This is not only unnatural but ruthless, **however for most mothers this is not the case. They value and love this God-given privilege.**
- B. **Motherhood is one of the greatest blessings that God has given us.** The well-being that a mother provides is incalculable since the baby is conceived in her womb and even throughout the course of her life. They give everything: her body, her heart and even the depths of her being for her children.
- C. **I believe that within every woman there is a mother,** although not all of them have conceived biological children, they do have that instinct to protect and care for minors not only in the natural but also in the spiritual. **Thank God for all the spiritual mothers who seek the growth and spiritual well-being of those who come after. Motherhood is a privilege but also a call to sacrifice:** Women must carry out their work without feeling that it is too much, although this does not mean that mother does not have the right to rest or lacks reasonable limits.
- D. **One of the purposes of the role of the mother is to return to the Lord the children that she grants them.**

Mal. 2:15a “Did he not make them one, with a portion of the Spirit in their union? And what was the one God seeking? Godly offspring.”

II. HANNAH’S EXAMPLE (1 Sam. 1-2)

- A. We see in **Hannah a woman who longed to be a mother,** she had not been able to have children (v.2) and lived in affliction and great pain, although this never took her away from devotion to the Lord. **As we have said, devotion does not always drive away affliction, but affliction never takes us away from devotion to the Lord.**
- B. **Hannah poured out her heart to God (1:15a)** Hannah learned to turn her burdens over to God (1:18b) and rest in Him.
v.10 “She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly”
1:18 “Then [after she prayed] the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.”

- C. Hannah understood that her motherhood had a greater purpose than simply enjoying her son:

v. 1:11 "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"

- D. Hannah was willing to give her son to the Lord (1:22b): She didn't just want a son so she wouldn't feel like a failure, she wanted a son for God's purposes. This is the hour of the Hannahs, of the women who will be willing to have the high vision of giving his children for the highest purposes that God has for His glory.

1. **Hannah dedicated her baby to the Lord from a young age:** There is no doubt that one of the stages where a child enjoys himself the most is at an early age, but she was firm in her determination.

1:24 "And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull,[c] an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young."

2. **Hannah did not give him with remorse:** It was not a grudging delivery but as an act of worship to the Lord.

1:28b "Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there."

3. **Ana supported her son's call:** I congratulate the fathers and mothers who think about their children's career but something even better is that they prepare them to fulfill their call in the Lord; for example, that they learn to play a musical instrument, singing, pedagogy and other useful skills to serve the Lord.

1 Sam. 2:19 "And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice."

- E. Through a woman who understood her calling God raised up one of Israel's most prominent prophets/intercessors/rulers who was used by God to bring revival when the nation was in one of its greatest crises. You don't know how far your children can go if you dedicate them to God.

- F. God rewarded Hannah's dedication and faithfulness.

2:21 " Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord..."

III. ELKANAH'S EXAMPLE

- A. **Elkanah was a constant man in prayer and worship.** Our consistent prayer life and devotion are key if we are to do well in our homes as husbands and fathers; we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

v.1:3a "Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts at Shiloh..."

- B. **Elcana was sensitive to his wife's emotional situation.** We cannot and should not ignore the emotional aspects in our lives or in those of those around us because God made us with emotions, that is part of our likeness with Him. Not that we are guided by our emotions but that we learn to recognize reality at that they are aiming to respond thoughtfully under the leadership of Christ rather than simply ignoring or suppressing them.

v.1:5 "But to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the Lord had closed her womb."

- C. **Elcana gave himself for his wife:** It is true that you cannot solve everything that she feels but at least you can be willing to give yourself for her; this speaks of the generosity of your attention, time and even money towards your wife.

v.1:8 "And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

IV. THE PROMISE FOR THE CHILDREN

Prov. 1:8-9 "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, 9 for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck."

- A. **The family is God's basic school to instruct children on how to live in the world.** The family is the place where the next generation is born and where the next generation learns to live. There are many things that are instinctive but children have to learn from the most basic skills such as walking, talking and eating, to the moral actions of courtesy, gratitude, respect and faith in Christ. And if a mother and father seek help from others through nurseries or Sunday schools or primary or secondary schools; the responsibility remains with the parents and they will give an account to God of how the minds and hearts of their children were formed and molded by those to whom we entrust them.
- B. **The responsibility to teach children rests with both fathers and mothers:** The text does not say: "Parents work in the office and, therefore, do not have the responsibility to teach their children." Nor does it say: "Fathers instruct and mothers change diapers." Nor does it say, "Mothers work in the office and can delegate responsibility to the public school." He says that fathers instruct and mothers teach, that is, they share this responsibility.
- C. **"Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching."** The tendency of young people may be to despise what parents say, but God calls sons and daughters to be submissive to their mothers and fathers: **These two commandments warn against the two common temptations of rebellion.** One is when a child is at home; and the other is when he is away from home. **If he is at home,** the temptation of the rebellion is not to listen when his father speaks about him. Then Solomon

says: ***"Listen to the instruction of your father."*** If he is away from home, the temptation is to abandon what he was taught. Then Solomon says, ***"Do not abandon your mother's teaching."*** Young man, the way to honor your parents is to listen respectfully when they speak. You honor your mother by remembering what she taught you about right and wrong, about fear of God, when you are far from home and no one can see you except you and God.

- D. God promises a reward for the sons and daughters who do not abandon the teaching of their parents ***"For a graceful adornment will be on your head, And necklaces on your neck."*** What this verse says is that hearing your dad's instruction and not forsaking your mom's teaching will be like gifts and rewards around your neck. In other words, it will mean triumph, celebration and joy, and in turn this will be the best gift for your mother.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. The cry of motherhood is for children and the highest desire is children who live for God. The task belongs to both parents and the responsibility of the children is to listen to the instructions and directions given to them. The greatest reward for pious mothers are children who love God and the prize for children is true success before God, not only before men.

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. For parents: Explain how you are fulfilling your call to raise up a generation for Jesus
2. For children: Explain how you are honoring your parents in a practical way both inside and outside the home?
3. Let's pray the Friendship Group for family members and for the end of abortion in our nation.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The School of Discipleship and Affirming Your Steps will begin this Monday, May 9 in Spanish and English. Sign up at the outside table after service.
- This Wednesday HOLY58 will have a special Parent-Child Night at 7:00 p.m. with a special theme of how to hear the heart of the Father.
- Women's Conference is this May 27 (English) and 28 (bilingual). Please purchase your ticket at the bookstore or at www.housesoflight.org
- Saturday May 21: Special service in celebration of Keith Green. That day our service will start at 7:00 p.m. and it will be in English.