

Hannah – A Godly Mother – I Samuel 1 – 3

1. She had a right relationship with God

- She went to worship with her husband
- She prayed about her problems
- She fasted and wept before God in her anguish
- She vowed to give her son back to God
- She believed that children were a gift from God
- She was a woman of purity
- She believed that God was able to provide – her countenance changed after prayer
- She trusted God to work out His plan
- She praised God (Ch 2:1-10)

She worshipped with her husband in the morning before they returned home

- God granted her request because she was focussed on Him
- She fulfilled her promise to God by taking him back to serve Him
- She taught Samuel to listen to God
- She looked after him even as he served God
- God rewarded her faithfulness with more children
- as a result – I Samuel 3:19-21

2. She had a right relationship with her husband

- This is the most important relationship in raising children
- What you communicate to your children through your relationship dominates their thinking
- They learn about human relationships by watching their parents – love, forgiveness, sin, virtue, sympathy, understanding, compassion, honesty and integrity
- They are ALWAYS watching – what you project to your children lasts a lifetime

- No relationship is perfect
- Children learn what they live
- If you always live the truth – you don't have to worry about the image that you project
- They worshipped together as a couple at least three times a year
- Hannah's security was in the love that her husband showed – not in his wealth, etc
- His love for her was not just emotional – he demonstrated kindness, thoughtfulness, honour, sacrifice, etc
- Love needs to be demonstrated so frequently that there is never a question about its authenticity
- The husband must have a sensitive heart :
 1. learn to listen (James 1:19,20)
 2. be tender, sympathetic, thoughtful
 3. learn to feel what she feels – it's more than acknowledgement & mental understanding

3. She had a right relationship at home

- Elkanah could be who he was because of who Hannah was to him
- She fulfilled her responsibilities in the home
- She would not go to worship and take Samuel - she knew that he had to be raised correctly at home before he could serve God (Ch 1:21-23)
- You have 0 – 5 years to train a child (Prov 22:6)
- She dedicated herself to the child & dedicated the child to God
- The result – Ch 2:26 & Ch 3:19-21

- Compare Samuel with Jesus in Luke 2:52
- Jesus grew : mentally (in wisdom)
physically (in stature)
spiritually (in favour with God)
socially (in favour with man)
- It takes work to make a home and family healthy & vibrant spiritually
- It takes commitment to make a marriage Successful

- Harvard sociologists – How do you prevent delinquent anti-social dysfunctional children ?
 1. a father's discipline
 2. a mother's supervision
 3. father's & mother's demonstrated affection
 4. the family's cohesiveness
- Paul Meyer MD – What are the keys to right parent/child relationships ?
 1. love between parents & children
 2. discipline – making people live by a standard
 3. consistency – everyone lives by same rules
 4. example – parents live the standard first
 5. man at the head of the home

- Eph 6:1-3 – to the children : How seriously does God take the attitude that children need toward their parents ? Ex 21:15,17, Deut 21:18-21
- What makes it difficult to train our children ?
 1. the are born with the old nature – totally self-centered
 2. the culture around them exerts constant pressure to conform
 3. 2 Tim 3:1-4 – pressure from the culture produces chaos in the lives of the children

- Everything is NOT a lifestyle choice !
- The culture says :
 1. God doesn't exist or doesn't care
 2. You can ignore God's moral law
 3. Don't listen to your conscience (no guilt & no shame as a result)
 4. You are NOT responsible for your actions
 5. There are no restraints (you become self-indulgent)
- Eph 6:4 – How do we provoke our children to anger ?
 1. over-protection – they need to learn to be independent
 2. favouritism – treat them all the same
 3. pushing achievement – reward best efforts
 4. over-indulgence – they don't NEED all of the things that others have
 5. discouragement – approve the positive
 6. intrusion – children are a priority
 7. neglect – spend time with them
 8. bitter words-physical cruelty (cherish them)
- What should we teach our children ? (Read the Book of Proverbs)
 1. Teach them the truth about God and His Word all of the time
 2. Set boundaries for their actions and demand that they live within them
 3. Teach them :
 - to have a healthy fear of God
 - to guard their minds
 - to obey their parents
 - to carefully select their companions
 - to control their sinful desires
 - to enjoy sexual fidelity
 - to watch their words
 - to pursue their work
 - to manage their money
 - to love their neighbours
- Finally : God's Perspective
Deut 6:5-7 & Deut 5:29