

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Raise Godly Children

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Samuel 1

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1714

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The head of the home is the husband, but the heart of the home is the mother.
- b) Today's message will speak about the incredible power and influence of a godly mother in raising godly children.
- c) The most powerful and influential class of people in the world today are mothers.
- d) The Scripture today will focus on a mother named Hannah.
 - i) The name "Hannah" means "gracious."
 - ii) Hannah was indeed gracious and a maximum mom.
- e) Hannah did not live in ideal circumstances.
 - i) She lived in a day of polygamy.
 - ii) She had an adversary.
 - (1) There was another wife in the home who ridiculed her, taunted her and made fun of her because she was barren.
- f) Hannah had no children, and she wanted more than anything else to have a son to serve God.
- g) Hannah prayed and asked God to give her a son.
 - i) God answered her prayer and gave her a son named Samuel.
 - ii) Samuel became one of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament.
 - (1) He is the most significant figure between Moses and David.
- h) We learn five powerful principles for raising godly children from Hannah.
 - i) What Hannah did is a great instruction for us today.

2) THE PRINCIPLE AND THE POWER OF PROPER PRIORITY (1 SAMUEL 1:10)

- a) 1 Samuel 1:2, 10
 - i) Hannah had no children.
 - ii) She was heartbroken because she wanted a baby.
 - (1) She wanted God to bless her with a child.
- b) Hannah had a God-given instinct to be a mother.
- c) Children are a blessing from God.
 - i) Psalm 127:3
 - ii) There is probably no greater earthly blessing than children.
 - iii) Psalm 128:3-4
- d) There is something basically wrong in America when we have a generation today that does not desire to have children.
 - i) They look upon children as burdens rather than blessings.
 - ii) Children do not make a rich man poor; they make a poor man rich.
 - (1) The rich man cannot take his money to Heaven.
 - (2) We can take our children to Heaven.
 - (a) Our riches are in our children.
- e) There is something drastically wrong when we have a generation that is putting children to death in a mother's womb.
 - i) It is an abomination to Almighty God.

- f) Hannah's proper priority was that she wanted children.
 - i) Children are a blessing of the Lord.

3) THE PRINCIPLE AND POWER OF PRAYER (1 SAMUEL 1:10)

- a) 1 Samuel 1:10
 - i) Hannah prayed unto the Lord.
- b) The time to begin to raise godly children is before they're born and even before they're conceived.
 - i) We should begin to pray for our children before they're even conceived.
- c) God answered her prayer and gave her a child.
 - i) That child was named Samuel.
 - (1) "Samuel" means "asked of the Lord."
- d) There are many children who have been a blessing to the world because their mothers prayed and asked for a child.
 - i) Sarah had a son in answer to prayer when she was ninety years old.
 - (1) Up until then, she had been barren.
 - ii) Rachel, who was also barren, asked for a child.
 - (1) God heard Rachel, and she had a son named Joseph.
 - (2) Genesis 30:22-24
 - (3) Joseph became the mighty deliverer of his people.
 - iii) Manoah's wife was barren, and she wanted a son.
 - (1) Judges 13:2-3
 - (2) God gave her a son named Samson, who became the judge of Israel and the deliverer of God's people.
 - iv) Ruth the Moabitess was a widow and was barren.
 - (1) God was gracious to Ruth and gave to her Obed, the grandfather of David.
 - (a) Through David, Ruth was in the house and lineage of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - v) Zachariah and Elisabeth did not have a child.
 - (1) They prayed and asked God for a child, and God sent John the Baptist.
 - (a) Luke 1:13
 - (2) Luke 7:28
 - vi) All of the above were miracle births.
 - vii) The world has been blessed by these babies who came in answer to prayer.
 - (1) Have you ever wondered why God has not sent a cure for cancer, or why God hasn't raised up a statesman to help the nations live together or why God hasn't yet raised up a leader to take Billy Graham's place?
 - (a) Could it be perhaps that these leaders have been aborted in their mothers' wombs?

4) THE PRINCIPLE AND THE POWER OF PURPOSE (1 SAMUEL 1:11)

- a) 1 Samuel 1:11

- i) She promised the Lord that if He would give her a child that she would give that child back to the Lord.
 - ii) Her purpose in prayer was that her child would glorify the Lord.
 - b) One of the principles in having godly children is to see your child as a gift from God.
 - i) Because your child is a gift from God, you then give that child back to God.
 - c) What is your purpose and ambition for your children?
 - i) Is it fame?
 - ii) Is it money?
 - iii) Is it prestige?
 - iv) Are your prayers being answered for your children?
 - (1) James 4:3
 - (a) We don't receive because we ask for the wrong things.
 - (2) We should pray that our children come to know and love God with all of their heart.
 - (a) 3 John 1:4
 - d) Psalm 127:3-4
 - i) Arrows are to be shot at the enemy.
 - ii) Our children are to be used in the warfare against Satan.
 - (1) We're to use those arrows as best we know how to shoot at the enemy.
 - e) We can pray and ask God to bless our children because our prayers for them are not that they be wealthy or powerful or influential, but that they will know and love God and be used of God.
 - f) We cannot control our children.
 - i) They must make their own decisions.
 - (1) We have desires for our children; we have goals for ourselves.
 - (2) Your desire for your children is that they be godly children; your goal for yourself is that you be a godly parent.
- 5) THE PRINCIPLE AND THE POWER OF PERSISTANCE (1 SAMUEL 1:12-17)
- a) 1 Samuel 1:12-17
 - i) The word "marked" in verse 12 means "noticed."
 - b) Hannah was a woman of prayer, but not just prayer easily uttered and soon forgotten.
 - i) She prayed and prayed and continued to pray before and after this child was born.
 - (1) 1 Samuel 2 contains Hannah's prayer as she rejoiced in the strength and power of her great God.
 - c) We should persist in prayer and absolutely refuse to let Satan have his way in the hearts and lives of our children.
 - d) The principle here is to never waver in prayer, no matter how dark the circumstances.
 - i) Just keep on keeping on.

- e) Isaiah 40:31
 - f) Psalm 27:14
 - g) There will be times, as parents, when we think we have failed.
 - i) If you have a wayward teenager or a rebellious child, keep praying.
 - h) Hannah prayed and did not quit praying until God gave her a child.
 - i) It was God's plan to give Hannah a child.
 - (1) We know this because Hannah asked for a specific thing, and God gave her a specific thing.
 - ii) The prayer that was in Hannah's heart was put there by God.
 - (1) The prayer that gets to Heaven starts in Heaven.
 - i) When we persist in prayer, God will show us His will.
 - i) Prayer will enable God's will to be done in our hearts and in our lives.
 - j) If God gives you children, then you must persist in praying for those children and never cease praying for your children.
- 6) THE PRINCIPLE AND THE POWER OF PERSUASION (1 SAMUEL 1:21-22)
- a) Both mother and father have influence on a child, but a mother makes the deepest impression on a child, especially during the early days.
 - b) 2 Timothy 1:5
 - i) Timothy loved the Lord because of the influence of his grandmother and mother.
 - c) What influences children is the life they see lived by their parents.
 - d) One statistic stated that roughly one-third of the boys surveyed said that they would go to their father if they had a problem.
 - i) More than two-thirds said that they would go to their mother.
 - e) 1 Samuel 1:21-22
 - i) Hannah would not leave her child and let someone else have those precious years.
 - (1) She had a responsibility to train her child.
 - f) 1 Samuel 2:19
 - i) When Samuel went to stay with the prophet Eli, Hannah would sew a special little coat for him each year and take it to him when she and her husband went to offer the yearly sacrifice.
 - g) Abraham Lincoln credited his mother for the man that he grew to be.
 - h) St. Augustine, one of the church fathers, was once a prodigal and lived a decadent life.
 - i) His mother, Monica, stayed on her knees praying for her son to be saved.
 - ii) As a result, Augustine was saved.
 - i) Two brothers, John and Charles Wesley, are known as the fathers of the Methodist church.
 - i) Their mother, Susanna, is known as the mother of Methodism because she put that faith in the heart of her children.
 - j) Mothers have the power of persuasion and influence.

7) CONCLUSION

- a) We can raise godly children if we will take that priority, that prayer, that purpose, that persistence and that persuasion and put them together.
- b) But the first step in raising godly children is to be a child of God yourself.
 - i) The only way to be a child of God is to be born into the family of God.
 - ii) The only way to be born into the family of God is to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
 - (1) Have you done that?
 - (2) Are you saved?
- c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16