

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 1:24-28

Date: August 19, 2012

Title: "Your Loss, His Gain"

Focus: The dedication of a child requires the dedication of yourself.

Intro:

1. The best-known mom in the Old Testament is probably Hannah. She longed for a child but was unable to bear one. She pleaded with YHWH for a son, promising she would dedicate him back to YHWH where He to grant her request.

2. Eventually she had a son and true to her word, she gave him back to the Lord. This son was Samuel. He was to become one of the most prominent prophets and judges in Israel's history.

Body:

There Was Nothing "Proforma" For Hannah about Dedicating her Child

- There is nothing spiritually inherent in a baby dedication. It does not secure the child a place in heaven. Nor does it promise the child will be spiritually protected while growing up.

- The dedication of a child is an act of commitment on the part of the parents, family, and friends to give themselves to raising the child to know and have a relationship with God.

- Hannah demonstrated this. She promised YHWH her son, and when the time came, she brought him.

- Something will arise to make the task difficult. Therefore, one is not to be lax in making this commitment to God. Personal commitment and dedication is required to see it through.

Hannah Was Committed, So Too was Elkanah

- The rearing of a child is not something to be done alone. Family, friends, and a community of believers are essential.

- Elkanah affirmed Hannah in her decision to raise this child dedicated to the Lord (a Nazarite Vow).

v. 23 "Elkanah her husband said to her, 'Do what seems best to you. Remain until you have weaned him; only may the Lord confirm His word.'"

- People exhibiting a living faith are essential to anyone's growth and development.

Hannah Did Not Seek Religion for Her Child, She Want Him to Know YHWH.

- Often religious education is mistaken for leading a child to know God's personally.
- Hannah sought an environment for Samuel that put him in the position to meet God.

v. 22 "she said to her husband, 'I will not go up until the child is weaned; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever.'"

The Price Hannah Paid, Her Devotion, Proved to Be a Blessing (v. 27)

- As a result of Hannah fulfilling her commitment, Eli worshipped.
- Her son Samuel did have the opportunity to encounter YHWH. – See: 1 Sam 3
- YHWH was honored in her devotion.
- The nation of Israel was blessed in Samuel's service.

Closing:

1. The dedication of a child to God is a wonderful and loving act. Families seeking this are making dedicating themselves, their whole lives, to making sure this child knows God.
2. It is not to be entered into lightly, because it is not something that can be left to itself. It requires effort and involves accountability.
3. However, for parents, families, and faith communities, so dedication provides for the child the opportunity to experience God. It also makes possible the blessing of others and the honoring of God.