

Comparing Godly Mothers

Text : **I Samuel 1: 1-20**

S#1.

A. We will return to our series as soon as possible, but this week demands a special lesson ... it is Mother's Day.

1. This is one of the few things virtually everyone in the audience has in common ; at some point, everyone has had a mother.
2. For most, whether or not she was an especially good mother she holds a special place

B. Thus, in 1908 when Anna Jarvis started campaigning for a special day for mothers, it quickly caught on. S#2.

1. Mother's Day started in a little church in Grafton, W. Va., but quickly caught on.
2. In 1914 Pres. W. Wilson proclaimed the 2nd Sun. of May to be a national holiday.
3. Due to extensive commercial advertising, it is now observed in many nations.

C. A celebration of motherhood is in order for many reasons.

1. Motherhood is a command of God.
 - a. **Gen. 1: 27** – God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." S#3.
 - b. This command is repeated after the great flood. ... **Gen. 9** S#4.
 - c. **Gen. 3: 16** – To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth, in pain you will bring forth children; yet your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." S#5.
2. Motherhood is under attack by our liberal, feminist culture. S#6.
 - a. The liberal feminists ridicule women who choose to be a mother and homemaker.
 - b. The culture pressures women to pursue fulfillment in a career outside the home.
3. Our country is suffering from the lack of children. S#7.
 - a. The birthrate in America has dropped steadily for many years.
 - b. We require 2.1 children per woman, but we are at only 1.7 children per.
 - c. We already rely on immigration to maintain our population. (*Europe is worse*)
4. The lack of native-born children is costing us our culture.
 - a. We are already experiencing labeling on products, etc. in multiple languages.
 - b. So many people are coming in that our American value system is changing.
 - c. The clashing of cultures is causing a breakdown of civil society, law and order.

D. The low birthrate is threatening the church.

1. Wherever you go the assemblies of the church are filled with gray-haired folks.
2. It is the same in the denominational world.
3. As a whole the “Christian” population is growing much slower than Muslims.
 - a. The Muslim fertility rate is much greater than all other religions.
 - b. The Muslims have a much higher retention rate than other religions.
 - c. The average age of Muslims is less than other religions. (*more reproductive yrs*)

E. Though we have an insufficient birthrate to maintain population the liberal establishment encouraged the mass murder of babies.**S#8.**

1. 188 out of 1000 pregnancies is terminated by killing the baby.
2. In 2015 there were 638,169 legal abortions reported from 49 stations.
3. *There have been at least 45,789,558 babies terminated since 1970.*
4. **THEREFORE, it is totally appropriate that we have a lesson advocating and praising motherhood.**

S#9.

It is the objective of this lesson to compare two Godly women who became, mothers under very different circumstances Hannah the mother of Samuel and Mary the mother of Jesus.

I. Hannah was a godly woman who longed for a child.**S#10.****A. Hannah was a godly woman in a religious family.****S#11.**

1. They went up to the place of worship (palace, court, temple) every year.
2. Possible for the feast of weeks. (*This was a required journey.*)
3. Elkanah took both of his wives .. did not have to take them.

B. Multiple wives was customary for a person of substance in that era.**S#12.**

1. It was not uncommon for men of God to have multiple wives ... **Jacob, David**
2. Our reading has shown us that there were rules for household with multiple wives.
 - a. Both / all wives had equal rights to the sexual service of the husband.
 - b. Men could take women to whom they weren't married – concubines,
 - c. Slave girls who were used for sexual purposed got special rights.
3. Households with multiple wives often had rivalries among the wives,
 - a. **Gen 30** ... Rachel and Leah had a strong rivalry. (*bearing children*)
 - b. Peninnah chided Hannah because she was barren.

C. The husband's love for the wife was no substitute for having a child. S#13.

1. Remember : Jacob loved Rachel more than Leah, but Rachel wanted sons.
2. Elkanah demonstrated his favoritism toward Hannah by giving her more.
 - a. When an animal (*bull*) was sacrificed, the worshipper ate most of it.
 - b. When Elkanah divided the meat, he gave Hannah double.
 - c. Everyone would have seen that she got much more than others.

I Sam. 1: 4 – When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; 5 but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb.
3. Both women had equal opportunity to become pregnant, but God prevented Hannah.
 - a. Elkanah had to give both of his wives equal opportunity to get pregnant.

Exod. 21: 10 – If he takes to himself another woman, he may not reduce her food, her clothing, or her conjugal rights. S#14.
 - b. So Peninnah harassed her about her ability to bear children. (*womanhood*)

I Sam. 1: 6 – Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. (*malicious intent*)

D. Hannah poured her heart out to the Lord.

1. **I Sam. 1: 10** – She, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. S#15.
2. She didn't make a big scene just quietly poured her heart out to the God who controls

I Sam. 1: 6 – Now it came about, as she continued praying before the Lord, S#16.
that Eli was watching her mouth. 13 As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. (*Fertility .. Deut. 11*)

 - a. There is nothing wrong with loud prayers ... remember Jesus.

Heb. 5: 7 – In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety. 8 Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. S#17.
 - b. *The volume of the prayer is irrelevant ,, God hears the heart.*

E. Hannah's request was not just for herself, it was to honor God. S#18.

1. She asked specifically for a son ... only men could serve in the tabernacle.

I Sam. 1: 11 – but will give Your maidservant a son,
2. Then she made a solemn promise to God to give the son back to Him.

I Sam. 1: 11 – She made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed

look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

- a. She literally kept her commitment to give her son to the Lord.
- b. A razor not cutting his hair was significant ... he would be a nazirite. **Num. 6**
- c. John the baptizer was the most famous nazirite. (*Samson, Elijah, etc.*)

F. Great good came from Hannah's faith and faithfulness.

S#19.

- 1. The child Hannah gave to the Lord became a great prophet.
 - a. Samuel served as a judge ruling over Israel.
 - b. Samuel anointed Israel's first two kings.

- 2. Hannah was rewarded with more children

I Sam. 2: 21 – The Lord visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew before the Lord

II. The Mary was a single woman who had a child thrust upon her.

S#20.

A. What a great honor to be chosen by God to raise His only begotten Son.

Luke 1: 26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. 36 And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God." 38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, **40** and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! **43** And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? **44** For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. **45** And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

B. The pregnancy of Mary was exactly the opposite to that of Hannah.

1. Hannah was married ... Mary was engaged, but still virgin.
2. Hannah was begging for a child ... Mary assumed children AFTER marriage.
3. A child would bless Hannah's life ... A child could destroy Mary's life.

C. Mary understood that this unplanned pregnancy could cost her her life. S#21.

1. **Deut. 22** ... A girl who lost her virginity prior to marriage could be killed.
2. Imagine trying to explain to your fiancée that you were pregnant.
3. Joseph loved her so it was his first thought to put her away quietly.

Matt. 1: 19 – And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

D. Every god-fearing Jewish girl dreamed of bearing the promised seed. S#22.

1. **Gen. 3: 15** – And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.
2. Mary's faith would not let her say no to such an opportunity.
3. Mary was rewarded with more children.

a. **Matt. 13: 55** – Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? **56** And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" **S#23.**

b. God would not have placed His Son where he was the youngest child. (*Joseph*)

III. Mothers are to be highly praised for their service, power and influence. S#24.

A. TRUTH : The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

1. Abraham Lincoln : "All that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."
2. Sir Winston Churchill : "She shone for me like the evening star. I loved her dearly – but at a distance."

B. In Hannah and Mary, we have seen that God gives children as a reward. S#25.

1. God promised fruitful wombs as a reward for faithfulness of the nation.

Deut. 28: 4 – Blessed shall be the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock.

2. God rewards individuals with children.

Psa. 127: 3 – Behold, children are a gift of the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. **4** Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. **5** How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate. S#26.

C. Abortion is the national shame of America. It kills people in the womb. S#27.

1. When Mary conceived she went immediately to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

Luke 1: 39 – And the angel departed from her. **39** Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, **40** and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. S#28.

2. The child within Elizabeth's womb was in its 6th month.

Luke 1: 36 – And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

3. The 6 mo old "fetus" within Elizabeth acknowledged the 1 mo old "fetus" in Mary.

Luke 1: 41 – When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! S#29.

4. People become people as soon as they are conceived. **Abortion is murder !** S#30.
S#31.

D. An unmarried woman with an unplanned pregnancy bore the savior of all.**CONCLUSION :**

- A. May all of you women who bore children be blessed. S#32.

- B. May all of you who bore children that serve the Lord be doubly blessed. S#33.

- C. We lift up motherhood as the single most important vocation on earth S#34.

INVITATION :

S#35. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**I Samuel 1: 1-20**

1 Now there was a certain man from Ramathaim-zophim from the hill country of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. **2** He had two wives: the name of one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah; and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

3 Now this man would go up from his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests to the Lord there. **4** When the day came that Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and her daughters; **5** but to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb. **6** Her rival, however, would provoke her bitterly to irritate her, because the Lord had closed her womb. **7** It happened year after year, as often as she went up to the house of the Lord, she would provoke her; so she wept and would not eat. **8** Then 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 better to you than ten sons?"

9 Then Hannah rose after eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. **10** She, greatly distressed, prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly. **11** She made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head."

12 Now it came about, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli was watching her mouth. **13** As for Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were moving, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought she was drunk. **14** Then Eli said to her, "How long will you make yourself drunk? Put away your wine from you." **15** But Hannah replied, "No, my lord, I am a woman oppressed in spirit; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have poured out my soul before the Lord. **16** "Do not consider your maidservant as a worthless woman, for I have spoken until now out of my great concern and provocation." **17** Then Eli answered and said, "Go in peace; and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have asked of Him." **18** She said, "Let your maidservant find favor in your sight." So the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

19 Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her. **20** It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord."

Luke 1: 26-45

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. **31** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. **32** "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; **33** and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. **36** "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. **37** "For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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