



'Honing in on the Heart!' Sermon Series

Sermon #3:

'Desperate Dedication!'

Wednesday, January 17th, 2024

Last Wednesday Night in 1st Samuel:

- Last Wednesday we looked at a message entitled *'Ask and Receive!'* from **1st Samuel 1:1-20**.
 - I asked the question: *How does this passage reveal to us the importance of asking God what we desire as long as it is to further accomplish His will and for His Glory?*
 - Point 1: **Ordinary Elkanah.** (V. 1-2)
 - Point 2: **Oppression Experienced.** (V. 3-8)
 - Point 3: **Overwhelming Entreaty.** (V. 9-11)
 - Point 4: **Outward Expression.** (V. 12-18)

- Point 5: **Outstanding Example.** (V. 19-20)

○ **Based on last week's message, we see that Hannah asked of the Lord, and verse 20 reveals that God did answer her request.**

- Tonight we will look at how Hannah fulfilled the vow that she made, in dedicating her son to the service of the Lord in 1st Samuel 1:21-28.

'Desperate Dedication!'

1st Samuel 1:21-28

Sermon in a Sentence:

We can show Desperate Dedication unto the Lord when we Sacrifice our Time, Supply our Treasures, and Serve in Totality unto the Lord.

Intro:

- Dedications are something that we are familiar with and aware of in our culture.
 - **Organizations and Churches will have times where they dedicate buildings with kind words and a great service.**
 - **Usually on Mother's Day we have a time in the service where we allow parents to dedicate their children to the Lord by taking a pledge.**
 - **Authors will often dedicate their books to someone by inserting their name in the first few pages.**

■ ***Dedicating things or people in our lives to God or to a certain person are normal. We see it often.***

- Last week we saw that Hannah made a verbal vow with God that she would give her child to Him.
 - ***Tonight we will see that she will fulfill that vow to God.***
 - ***But what I think we are going to see tonight in the text, is that dedication is more than a neat service with sweet words.***
 - A dedication is an action. It's a lifestyle.
 - I think Hannah will show us this evening that we need to be desperate to dedicate who we are and what we have to the Lord!
 - I've heard the phrase before ***'there's nothing stronger than the love between a mother and her child.'***
 - Whether that's true or not in your life, this young mother was going to come true on her promise to God by dedicating her son to a lifestyle of service to Him.
 - Tonight, may we be encouraged and inspired to be more desperate to dedicate three specific things we find in this text to the Lord!
- *Read 1st Samuel 1:21-28****

Question to Ask:

How can we show the same kind of Desperate Dedication to the Lord that Hannah showed in regards to her son?

Point 1: *Sacrifice our Time. (V. 21-23)*

- 'The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." 23 Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.' 1st Samuel 1:21-23
 - ***While it may not seem significant, these verses show us even more evidence of why Elkanah was a good man.***
 - But even with Elkanah and Hannah both mentioned, we can see that each of them sacrificed time in fulfilling this vow to the Lord.
 - ***When we make God the essence of our very lives, sacrificing time to Him will truly become 2nd nature.***
 - I believe there are three important things that we find in these three verses.
- ***Yearly Sacrifice. (V. 21)***
 - 'The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow.' 1st Samuel 1:21
 - ***Elkanah faithfully led his family to go to shiloh to offer up their yearly sacrifices to the Lord.***

- It is believed that this yearly sacrifice was a part of the pilgrimage festivals prescribed in the Torah in Deuteronomy 12:5-7.
 - *Now verse 21 says that Elkanah had to pay his vow, this is not the same vow that Hannah made although her vow did affect him (it was his son too).*
 - *We do not know which vow this is referring to due to the fact no information is given in the scripture about it other than the fact his family went with him.*
 - But even in this yearly sacrifice we can see that Elkanah was setting the example for his family by taking the several day journey to offer sacrifices to the Lord as it was prescribed in the Torah.
 - *Numbers 30:2 and Deuteronomy 23:21 shows that you could voluntarily make vows and then fulfill them.*
 - *Notice that Elkanah sacrifices his time, yearly, to spend time giving back to God a sacrifice, and showing them the importance of keeping your word.*
- *Young Samuel. (V. 22)*
 - ‘But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence

of the LORD and dwell there forever.” 1st Samuel 1:22

- *Verse 22 shows us that during this time Elkanah was going up yearly, Hannah was **Sacrificing her time** raising her son so that he would be ready for a lifetime of service unto God.*
 - The fact that Elkanah allows Hannah to stay behind to wean Samuel (plus what we find in verse 23), shows us that Elkanah was very supportive in Hannah’s vow.
 - *Spouses should be supportive of one another’s commitment(s) to the Lord.*
 - At this time, the Torah (OT law), gave Elkanah the right to nullify Hannah’s vow regarding Samuel’s service in the Shiloh sanctuary according to Numbers 30:10-15.
 - *But, he supports Hannah’s decision to give him (Samuel), to the Lord, even though Elkanah himself would not have a chance to raise his son.*
- *Hannah did not want to go up to Shiloh until she was ready for Samuel to go into full time service. Even has a young boy.*

- Dale Ralph Davis comments *'In the near east weaning a child could take up to 3 years.'*
 - *Hannah is only going to have 3 years, with the child she so desperately wanted.*
 - *So, she is essentially sacrificing the majority of her child's life to the Lord. She's sacrificing time that she would have with him, so he could be used by the Lord.*
- Sacrificing our time may hurt our hearts, but we see later in 1st Samuel how this decision by Hannah would impact the nation of Israel more than she would've imagined.
- **Yielding Support. (V. 23)**
 - 'Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.'
 - *Elkanah is serious about his wife fulfilling her vow, so he also offers yielding support.*
 - In studying the ancient eastern culture of that day, Elkanah's behavior is not regular.
 - Often, men would not allow their wives to make their own decisions and speak freely, but here, Elkanah offers great support to Hannah.

- *What has puzzled many Bible interpreters is the fact that Elkanah says 'only may the Lord establish his word'*
 - I think that Robert D. Bergen offers a good explanation here: *'The 'word' Elkanah prayerfully asked the Lord 'to make good' cannot be discerned from the text; perhaps it was an otherwise unknown divine promise made to Elkanah and Hannah when they made their vows.'*
- *Either way, it's clear that Elkanah offered support to his wife, Hannah, in giving Samuel to the service of the Lord.*
 - Both of them sacrificed their time in the Lord. That's a part of what it means to be desperately dedicated to God.

Point 2: Supply our Treasures. (V. 24-25)

- 'And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull,[a] an ephah[b] of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.' 1st Samuel 1:24-25
- *No matter what we have, all that we have is because of the Lord.*
 - *What we have as possessions is not actually our own, they are things that God has blessed us with.*

- So when we supply our treasures to Him, we are simply giving back to God what He's already given to us.
- ***These verses describe what Hannah did as soon as Samuel was old enough to make the trip.***
 - Every firstborn male child belonged to the Lord according to the Torah (Exodus 13:2, Numbers 3:47) and yet was then given back to the parents at one month of age for five shekels.
 - As part of a vow, a male child could be given to the Lord for a period of five years, and then come home after that according to Leviticus 27:1-8.
 - ***What differs in this vow that Hannah made, is that Hannah chose to give Samuel to the Lord for permanent service.***
 - On the way up the mountain, I'm sure she was thinking, 'this is the last time I can have extended time/freedom with my son'
 - But don't you see, that the thing she treasured and loved the most (her son), she freely and willingly gave it to the Lord?
 - ***I can't answer this for you, but everyone has something that they treasure. Whatever that is for you, have you supplied it to the Lord for Him to use whatever He sees fit?***
- I believe there are two things that we need to point out concerning Hannah's supply of the treasures.
- ***Generous Offering. (V. 24)***
 - 'And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull,[a] 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.' 1st Samuel 1:24
 - ***While she was going to drop off her son for him to serve the Lord in the temple at Shiloh, based on this verse we know she was also ready to worship.***
 - ***The sacrifices that she was bringing to worship the Lord at Shiloh were considered very generous for this time period.***
 - ***It's possible that due to the fact it had been at least three years since she was able to go to Shiloh with the family, that this sacrifice was more generous.***
 - ***In most translations (not all), you see 'a three-year-old bull'. It's important to point out that in the Hebrew language it literally means three bulls, which makes sense***
 - ***Numbers 15:8-10 shows us that when a bull was given as part of a vow offering, only 3/10 of an Ephah of flour and half***

a hin of wine were to accompany the offering.

- Our text reveals that Hannah gave three times that amount.
 - ***This makes it more likely to believe that it was three bulls.***
- Robert D. Bergen said *‘Clearly, the writer expected the audience to be impressed with the extreme generosity represented by the gift and thus with the heart of faith that conceived it.’*
 - Hannah’s generosity comes out in the items that she and her family brought. But also reveals that it was genuine, not only generous.
- ***Genuine Offering. (V. 25)***
 - ‘Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.’ 1st Samuel 1:25
 - ***In the Hebrew text, it’s important to note that Hannah is not the subject of the verbs described in verse 25 due to the fact that women were not permitted to perform these actions.***
 - Most scholars assume that her family, Elkanah included, came on this journey to offer Samuel to the Lord.
 - ***Just how Abraham was genuine in offering his son as a sacrifice to the Lord, Hannah is genuine in offering Samuel to the Lord.***
 - She kept her word.

- I personally don’t know how much more genuine you can be than offering your child to live with the priests and serve the Lord for the entirety of his life.

○ ***Hannah supplied and made available her treasures to the Lord for Him to use them.***

- Can you and I honestly say the same in our own lives tonight?

Point 3: *Serve in Totality. (V. 26-28)*

- ‘And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. **27** 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. And he worshiped the LORD there.” 1st Samuel 1:26-28
- ***Samuel was a gift from God, who, due to his mother’s vow, would spend his entire adult life serving the Lord, totally.***
 - May we not forget ***Psalms 127:3*** ***‘Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.’***
- Hannah understood this, so she didn’t give part of her son to the Lord, but she gave him totally and in doing so gives all Christian parents a great Godly example.
 - I love what Stephen J. Andrews said ***‘Hannah serves as a faithful role model***

for all Christian parents. Children are gifts from the Lord. We should seriously desire that each of our children be given to the Lord. God's gifts should be given back to Him. It is not a coincidence that many Churches hold special dedication services to help parents present their children to the Lord.'

- How does Hannah show us though that we can live a life of Desperate Dedication by serving the Lord totally?
- **Remember how far He's brought you! (V. 26)**
 - 'And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.'
 - **Hannah is reminding Eli that she was the woman who he thought was crazy and drunk. She is the woman who God answered her prayers and did what only He could do in and through her!**
 - God is the one who has brought Hannah to the point where she could totally surrender her son to serve the Lord.
 - **At this time that Hannah brought her son back for full time service at the temple, she had no way of knowing what all God was going to do through Samuel.**

- She didn't know he'd be a leading prophet in Israel, and that he would also be the one to anoint the first and second king of Israel.
- She didn't know these things but she didn't have to.
- **It started with her remembering the request that she made to God, and serving Him totally by giving Him to the Lord.**
 - Think, for just a moment, about how far the Lord has brought you this evening.
 - Think about what He's taken you through and what He has taught you through that.

● **Are you serving Him in Totality or just partially?**

- **Reminded by Samuel's name. (V. 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. And he worshiped the LORD there.' 1st Samuel 1:27-28
 - **Verses 27-28 are not as incredible in the english, as they are in the Hebrew language.**
 - **In the Hebrew text, there is something very striking that must be pointed out about these two verses:**

- In the Hebrew, there is an artistic wordplay that is found in Hannah's confession.
- *There are 4 different word plays of the Hebrew root word 'sl' which means to ask.*
 - 'Petition', 'lent' (both times), and 'Samuel' are all extensions of the Hebrew word which means to ask.
- *Hannah's loss in raising her son, would end up being Israel's gain.*
 - What do you need to lose, or better yet, dedicate to the Lord that would be your loss, but gain for the kingdom of God?
- *Samuel would one day serve Israel well but also serve them Totally. I believe he was able to be such a successful leader for Israel due to the fact that his mother was a great example of what it meant to serve the Lord, totally.*

Conclusion:

- Being desperate to give God our very best, should be something that we voluntarily do.
 - *Not something that we complain about or do begrudgingly.*
- Now, I'm not asking you to take the Nazarite vow and give up your son tonight, we no longer live under the OT law.

- *But what I am asking all of us to do, including myself, is to be desperate in our daily lives to give to God the best of what we have in every area.*
- *I believe that means being willing to:*
 - **Point 1: Sacrifice our Time. (V. 21-23)**
 - **Point 2: Supply our Treasures. (V. 24-25)**
 - **Point 3: Serve in Totality. (V. 26-28)**
- *How can you begin sacrificing more of your time to the Lord?*
 - In Prayer, Bible Study, Service opportunities.
- *How can you begin supplying more of your most valuable treasures unto God?*
 - Your tithe, your talents, and your offering (going above and beyond what God has asked for.)
- *How can you begin serving in totality? All of you, in worship and adoration of the King?*
 - Don't just serve to check off a box, and don't just serve partly, but serve in totality, giving your all to the Lord.
- *These are all questions that we need to ask the Lord in our personal relationship/walk with Him tonight.*