

A Committed Mom!

1 Samuel 1-2; Leviticus 27:1-8
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Dr. Benjamin Carson's tribute to his mom
- Committed moms are to be commended

A Committed Mom!—Hannah

A. Voicing Her Commitment

- 1 Samuel 1:11-- *"Then 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 male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.'"*

B. Viewing Her Commitment

1. Commitments are Binding.

a. God holds us to our commitments

- Ecclesiastes 5:4-5-- *"When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed—Better not to vow than to vow and not pay."*

b. Many today take a light view of commitment.

c. Hannah could have built a case for commitment under duress.

- 1 Samuel 1:1-2-- *"Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains 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. And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children."*

1) Hannah was wife #2 in a polygamous marriage.

a) God's definition of Marriage

- Mark 10:6-9-- *"But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason shall a man leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh; so then, they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, let not man separate."*

b) Polygamy is not God's ideal

c) God allowed and regulated polygamy—Deuteronomy 21

d) Polygamous relationships full of tension

2) Hannah was childless—1 Samuel 1:2

a) Childlessness viewed as a "curse" from God

- Deuteronomy 7:13-14 -- *"that the LORD your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb... You will be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you."*
- Psalm 128:1, 3-4-- *"fears the LORD, who walks in His ways"... "shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the LORD!"*

- b) **Children as a “sign” of God’s blessing**
- 3) **Hannah caught in a “Love-Hate Triangle”**
- a) **Still #1 wife in husband’s mind. He loves her.**
- 1 Samuel 1:4-5-- *“And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the LORD had closed her womb.”*
- b) **Other wife hates her and makes her life miserable.**
- 1 Samuel 1:6-7-- *“And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the LORD had closed her womb. So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.”*
- 4) **Hannah’s husband does not understand her grief.**
- 1 Samuel 1:8-- *“Then Elkanah her husband said to her, ‘Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? And why is your heart grieved? Am I not better to you than ten sons?’”*
- 5) **Hannah’s spiritual leader maligns her.**
- 1 Samuel 1:12-18-- *“And it happened, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli watched her mouth. Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. So Eli said to her, ‘How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!’ But Hannah answered and said, ‘No, my lord, I am a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. Do not consider your maidservant a wicked woman, for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief I have spoken until now.’ Then Eli answered and said, ‘Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition which you have asked of Him.’ And 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.”*
2. **Commitment involves Sacrifice.**
- a. **We want “commitments” that cost us nothing.**
- b. **Hannah’s commitment cost her Samuel, her son!**
- c. **Her commitment involved a WILLING Sacrifice**
- Leviticus 27:1-8-- *“Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When a man consecrates by a vow certain persons to the LORD, according to your valuation, if your valuation is of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old, then your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. If it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels; and if from five years old up to twenty years old, then your valuation for a male shall be twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels; and if from a month old up to five years old, then your valuation for a male shall be five shekels of silver, and for a female your valuation shall be three shekels of silver; and if from sixty years old and above, if it is a male, then your valuation shall be fifteen shekels, and for a female ten shekels. But if he is too poor to pay your valuation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value for him; according to the ability of him who vowed, the priest shall value him.’”*
- 1) Could have paid CASH and kept the child
- 2) They willingly CHOSE to lend Samuel to the LORD

3. Commitments are built on a commitment to God

a. Hannah's commitment to God as revealed in her prayer!

- 1 Samuel 2:1-11-- *"And Hannah prayed and said: 'My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by Him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and those who stumbled are girded with strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, and the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, and she who has many children has become feeble. The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes and make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD'S, and He has set the world upon them. He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by strength no man shall prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king, and exalt the horn of His anointed.' Then Elkanah went to his house at Ramah. But the child ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest."*

b. Our fundamental commitment to God as "living sacrifices".

- Romans 12:1-- *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service!"*