

First Baptist Church Smiths Falls

May 12, 2019 - Mother's Day

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 1:1-11

1 ¶ There was a certain man of Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham son of Elihu son of Tohu son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3 Now this man used to go up year by year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the LORD of hosts at Shiloh, where the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the LORD. 4 On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; 5 but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. 6 Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. 8 Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?" 9 ¶ After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. 11 She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

Congregational Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Message: "3 P's for Moms"

Introduction:

◆ Let me tell you the Lawn mower story. Linda and I were married for a

only a couple of years, living in Owen Sound when she went off the doctor's office. I suspected something was up, but I had to work that day, so she did her doctor visit on her own. We were prepared to start our family, but one of the criteria was that we had to have our own house. I said to her that we were to have no children until I owned a lawn mower. In November of 1984 we purchased our first house, but I still did not get a lawn mower. So when I came home from work, Linda had that sheepish look on her face. She sat me down, and came out with a large bag. All I wanted to know was how the doctor's visit went, and to get my supper after a 12 hour shift dispatching ambulances. But I awaited her presentation. Inside the large bag I found a small, plastic child's lawn mower. And Linda was delighted to reveal the truth of the doctor's visit. Timothy, our first son, was born 8 months later.

- ◆ Today's story of Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-11) is about another pregnancy: a woman whose body ached to have a child. She prays, she pleads, she bargains, and finally she receives the desire of her dreams, and she has a child, Samuel, who grew to be the greatest prophet and judge of Israel.
- ◆ Today, as we turn our attention to Mother's Day, I want to give a few

words to the mothers, and yet this message is for all those who are raising of any child. Let me use a 3-part message, with each part beginning with the letter “P” for characteristics of mothers.

Part one: Persistence

- ◆ The first “P” word for mothers today is the word Persistence. Look at Hannah from 1 Samuel 1. She is wanting to be a mother. But before she was blessed by God with a child, she gave that child to God. Think about her prayer (v. 11): “Lord, you give me a child, and I’ll immediately give that child to You. My arms ache for a child, but I will give him to You. I want a child in my life, but I will give him to You from the beginning.” And that is what she did. She prayed. She resigned herself. She did not manipulate God. She did not bargain. She resigned. That is the role of the mother - to resign yourself to God. Then to resign your child to the hands of God no matter what age, no matter what is happening in your life or in the life of your children - to say to God: “You gave me a gift. I gave that gift back to you. For as long as you allow me to hold onto my baby, I shall mother and care for this precious gift, but I am ready to give my child to You as You already own my child.” When our lawn mower baby was a few months along, Linda ran into complications. It appeared as if she

would lose our baby. But we prayed, and we gave our child to God.

The Lord allowed me to watch that child, now a man, walk up to home plate, get the first ball he has been pitched in 20 years, and smack a home run at his first baseball game.

- ◆ Let’s look at two other Bible passages as we look at persistence in motherhood. Turn with me to Timothy’s mom and grandmother from 2 Timothy 1. Lois, Timothy’s grandmother, and Eunice, Timothy’s mother who raised this boy to know Christ, and are lifted up before God as an example of their persistence. It would not have been easy to believe in Jesus that first generation, but they persisted with Timothy and they raised a Church leader of Church leaders.
- ◆ Look at Proverbs 31. This is the ideal Christian woman. We won’t take time to go over this passage verse by verse, but look at the persistence that is here, especially in verses 16 and 17 (NIV): “*She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. 17 She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks.*” This is a woman, a wife, a mother who knows how to persist in life.
- ◆ I have to say, one of the toughest parts of being a mother has to be persistence. Persistence comes in many forms. First, mothers have to

be persistent in being part of her child's life. What is your child doing? Why is my child upset now? What are my child's dreams, goals and aspirations? It is the role of the parent to make certain that your child's life is part of yours. This is not smothering, its mothering. It means taking the time to stop, to sit, to listen. It means opening yourself to your child - no matter how old or how young. Its never too late to start.

- ◆ Secondly, one also has to be persistent in discipline. If you say, "No!" once to your child, then mothers, you must never back down. Persistence in discipline means making certain that your child knows what is right and what is wrong, and that when they cross the line into what is wrong, that you will be persistent in your discipline. Today, many people seem to believe that persistent discipline is cruel, that it somehow takes away the rights of the child. But I want to make it clear that children need to know their limits. Children need to know what is right, and what is wrong, and they need the measuring stick of their actions which can only come from you, as mothers and fathers.
- ◆ The last persistent act for mothers to be persistent in love. Your children are going to mess up. Your children are going to make mistakes. Your children are going to prove that they are human. And

worse, mothers, your children are going to act like YOU! Persist in love. How many times do you come to the end of your day, mothers, and feel like Dennis the Menace's mother, who looks at her sleeping child and says, "How can he look like such an angel NOW!?!?" You will have to love you child no matter what he or she does. It's your role as a parent. But I want you to remember that persisting in loving your child does no mean letting your child walk all over you, as many adult children do to their parents. Loving your child does not mean telling your child that everything that they do is right. Barbara Johnston, in her humour books such as "Pain is Inevitable, but Misery is an Option: So Stick a Geranium in your Hat" tells the story of her twenty plus year old son who came home one day to pronounce that he was a homosexual. She told the story of having to tough-love her son. She stopped letting him walk all over her, and she made him leave the house until he got his life together. She described how tough it was to make him see the light, but she also made it clear that she would always be there for him. She loved that boy until he returned home as a Christian, renouncing his homosexual ways. Persistence in loving means setting those limits, loving with all your heart, and helping your child grow up.

Part 2: Patience

- ◆ The next “P” word for Mother’s Day today is Patience. In this day and age when we are bustling to work, to shop, to run this errand, to get our kids to this lesson or to that game, when we have a stack of dishes, the cat has yakked on the rug, that plants need watering, the school needs volunteers, and then there is that marriage to keep together, patience for mothers is a precious commodity.
- ◆ I believe that patience for mothers will only come with mothers taking time out for two things: God and themselves. To have patience, all mothers must get a devotional booklet, or a devotional Bible, and must take it up daily, at a quiet time spent just for your devotions. Spending time with God to commune with Him will build up your patience, as will taking time just for you. Taking time for yourself to grow in God, quiet time to rest in God, may well take a conscious effort on your behalf, but you will be rewarded. Wouldn’t it be nice to be able to withstand that rush of childhood energy that happens when the kids jump off the bus and into the house? OR The harried moments when you get home from work, and you have to catch up on your family’s life, as well as put the house back in order, as well as make a gourmet meal, like all SUPER-moms can do. Patience is

important in motherhood.

Part 3: Prayer

- ◆ The final “P” is Prayer. How many times have you heard the quotes from people about how important it is to have a praying mother? How many stories have you read or heard about in which the prayers of the mother have propelled a child to greatness? Have you seen it yourself, those times when your child needs your prayers, and you have seen them answered? How many times have you stood by the bed to watch the laboured breathing of your child, praying with all your might through tears of pain and sorrow? How many times have you sat with your child, and as they have told you their latest heartache, praying feverously that they would get things sorted out? How many times have you prayed as you watch your child travel off to some great adventure, beseeching God to guide, guard and care? Mothers, that is your role. You provide the means for that life to have a start, then you have the role of standing back and watching your child grow, giving your child to God, as did Hannah. And you have to take every step of your child’s life, and with your prayers, provide a light of God’s grace for your children’s path. A mother’s prayers will provide foot protection for the way, and will provide a set of body armour for your

child. For praying mothers, when you give your child back to God, just as Hannah did, you will not be releasing your child into the void of this world, but you will be returning your child to the God whom you talk with continually.

Conclusion:

- ◆ Read “When God Created Mothers” by Erma Bombeck: “When the good Lord was creating mothers He was into His sixth day of “overtime” when the angel appeared and said, “You’re doing a lot of fiddling around this one.” And the Lord said, “Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic; Have 180 moveable parts... all replaceable; Run on black coffee and leftovers; Have a lap that disappears when she stands up; A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair; And six pairs of hands.” The angel shook her head slowly and said, “Six pairs of hands... no way.” “It’s not the hands that are causing me problems,” said the Lord. “It’s the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.” “That’s on the standard model?” asked the angel. The Lord nodded. “One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, “What are you kids doing in there?” when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she

shouldn’t but what she has to know, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, “I understand and I Love You” without so much as uttering a word.” “Lord”, said the angel, touching His sleeve gently, “Come to bed. Tomorrow...” “I can’t,” said the Lord, “I’m so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick... can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger... and can get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower.” The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. “It’s too soft,” she sighed. “But tough!” said the Lord excitedly. “You cannot imagine what this mother can do or endure.” “Can it think?” “Not only think, but it can reason and compromise,” said the Creator. Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. “There’s a leak,” she pronounced. “I told You. You were trying to put too much into this model.” “It’s not a leak,” said the Lord, “it’s a tear.” “What’s it for?” “It’s for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride.” “You are a genius,” said the angel. The Lord looked sombre. “I didn’t put it there.””

- ◆ Today, mothers, into your hands that hold together more than any hands should ever be expected, may I challenge you this mother’s

day to remember the “P”s of motherhood: Persistence, both in being a part of your child’s life, but also in discipline and in love; Patience to be able to juggle a cart load of life, and to still be there for your family as you care for yourself; and Prayer, that you might be able to continually give your children to God.

◆ Thank you, mothers, for doing the very best job that there ever is.

Thanks for being a mom.