

The Making of a Samuel Part II

Introduction Today honor fathers but turn attention toward one specific father—The Making of a Samuel

Review of Story

- Dark period of judges (right in own eyes)
- Transition to king in Israel has begun
- Religious corruption of priesthood (Eli, Hophni, Phineas)
- Elkanah/Hannah—desire for a son
- Prayed, misunderstood, granted a son—Samuel
- Lived in tabernacle in Shiloh—served with Eli
- Used to speak to Israel—anoointed both Saul and David

Role of his parents was crucial

1. Hannah practiced a devotion to God that transformed her pain into an opportunity to draw close to God.
2. Hannah understood completely the unique value of a child as a gift from God.
3. Hannah modeled a passionate surrender to God's will.
4. Hannah pursued an intimacy with God unrivaled by religious form.

What about the role of Elkanah?

NOTE: Specifics are not given but can form some ideas through observation

I. Elkanah instilled in Samuel a deep respect for godly counsel.

A. 3 times in the night the Lord called him.

1. Went to Eli
2. 3rd time Eli provided counsel

And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." 1 Samuel 3:8-10 NKJV

B. Samuel heeded the counsel

1. Somewhere along the line had learned respect
2. Modeled by Elkanah
3. Regular trips to feasts—approach to Eli

C. Lack today of respect for authority and elders

1. Watch what we do, do not say
2. How do we respond to bosses, relatives, umpires, coaches, pastors, leaders

D. Do we model respect for spiritual truth?

(In the Word, studying it, memorizing, applying)

Modeled respect/instilled in Samuel

II. Elkanah modeled selfless and ungrudging care for others.

A. Care for Hannah was selfless

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. 5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb. 1 Samuel 1:4-5 NKJV

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?" 1 Samuel 1:8 NKJV

Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever." 23 So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. 1 Samuel 1:21-23 NKJV

- B. His first focus was not himself but tender to her needs.
- C. When Samuel received vision he did not want to hurt Eli.
- D. Later, Samuel would want to guard the name of God when Israel demanded a king (1 Samuel 8)
- E. World of selfishness—ME (My needs, income, rights, benefits)

Where is the quality of SELF-LESSNESS?

III. Elkanah encouraged the spiritual development and spiritual insight of Hannah.

- A. He knew her prayers, devotion, and godliness
 - 1. Saw the Lord remembered her when she conceived
 - 2. Let the Lord establish His word to you

So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him. 1 Samuel 1:23 NKJV

- B. Respected the work of God in Hannah's life
 - 1. No 2nd guessing or trying to change it
 - 2. Cultivated it instead
- C. Samuel grew up knowing God could speak to him at a young age
- D. Do we encourage the spiritual development of our children?

(Sports, music, education, spiritual things)

IV. Elkanah instilled in Samuel a profound reverence for the presence of God.

*This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.
1 Samuel 1:3 NKJV*

- A. Established a routine—yearly
- B. Clarified a priority—worship
- C. Required a sacrifice—
- D. What do we model for our children?

1. Routinely in God's presence?

- a. Personally
- b. Corporately

2. Priority of worship

3. Necessity of sacrifice

Conclusion: Samuel—made by a contribution of both Hannah and Elkanah

- 1. But also Eli—in his imperfection
- 2. Picture of imperfect church/leadership
- 3. Contribution?

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1 Samuel 3:8-9 NKJV*

4. Are we doing that? Listen to the voice of God!