

Mother's Day 2014: Godly Motherhood vs. Godly Mothering!

Godly Mothering...

Want to look at the difference between motherhood and mothering!

Not the measurement of achievement but the application of standards!

A set of moral principles and Godly concepts we apply to life rather than a comparison to, or percentage of, an ideal!

Not a destination but an application of values!

1Samuel 1.1-28

"Elkanah had two wives, Peninah, who had children and Hannah, who did not. He went up every year to worship God and each year he gave gifts to Peninah and her children, and to Hannah he gave a large gift, because he loved her. And every year, Peninah provoked Hannah to keep her stirred up, and she wept and couldn't eat. Elkanah asked, "Why are you crying and why won't you eat? Why do you let her get to you? Aren't I better than ten sons?" After Hannah had eaten the Passover meal she got up and headed for the temple where Eli was serving as judge and High-priest. She prayed from the depth of her soul, with humility and tears, vowing to give her son back to the Lord for lifelong service. Eli reckoned her soundless quivering lips as drunkenness and he chastened her. When he heard her clear response, he retracted his words and blessed her: "Go in peace and God grant your request!" So, she left and ate and she was happy all the way home and Elkanah was excited for her and they had a child... and when the time came she named him Samuel, "asked of God!" After Samuel was weaned Hannah brought him to the temple in Shiloh and presented him to Eli saying, "I am the woman who stood here praying for a son and here he is, my portion, and so I have returned him to the Lord, as long as he lives, he will be the Lord's as I committed!"

Profile: Hannah...

First, see her values as she chooses to bring her troubles to the Lord! She has endured barrenness/mockery... Rather than retaliation against "flesh and blood..." She brings her load to the Lord! Hope deferred, grief generating, no counsel, conversation, prayers needed... Crying out for the Living God alone! The One who makes a way where there is none!

The soul that has gone unanswered needs, and chooses, God alone!

Misjudged, she chooses to humbly stand her ground to keep focused! We all do things differently... And we judge/are judged according to personal experiences... Can choose to be offended, hurt, angry... (or proud and imperial) DISTRACTED! Or we can get it/keep it right... She refused to be counted as "vile..." But refused to revile to do it! Her love for God's grace checked her anger/indignation/recrimination!

With a clear mind she chooses to keep her eye on the prize!

She chooses a life of self-surrender... as she follows thru and gives the greatest gift she wanted to keep... her son! This is no self-ish believer! There is no "God understands that I said that in my need – and that I just can't follow thru..." in Hannah! This is no partial service; this is all out for her and her son, lifetime commitments!

She chooses a life of integrity; "vows a vow," and follows thru to her own "hurt!"

She chose a life of Praise! (1Samuel 2) Listen to this testimony: "My heart rejoices in the Lord! My strength has been exalted in the Lord! My mouth is opened wide with the conquering of my enemies! I rejoice in my salvation!" No one has to tell this little gal, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!" And she's just getting revved up! 10 vss!

She chooses to make Him name and fame known for the great things He has done!

She's living by Godly standards of life: intimate prayer, clear eyes, a surrendered life, and praise...

And that's how she measures up! It's never a matter of being perfect... it's applying the perfecting values of God that matters most!