

# A GODLY MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

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## INTRODUCTION: (SCRIPTURE READING – PROVERBS 31:10, 28-31)

- A. I'm sure all of us are aware that today is Mother's Day – A holiday designed to honor our mothers!
  - 1. While Mother's Day is a secular holiday, it's certainly based upon a very Biblical concept!
  - 2. A godly mother should be praised & honored due to the great work she does & her faithfulness to fulfilling the role God has given to her! Consider the words of King Lemuel (**Prov 31:28-31**)
- B. My goal with this lesson is to honor all godly mothers while learning lessons about the nature of godly motherhood and it's wonderful impact in our lives! We'll do it by looking at some Biblical mothers

## LET'S CONSIDER SOME LESSONS FROM THREE GODLY MOTHERS:

- A. First of all, let's consider the godly influence of Hannah, the mother of Samuel:
  - 1. Hannah's story is a very sad one – As the account of her life unfolds we learn that she is a very godly woman who greatly desired to have children but was infertile: (**1 Sam 1:2-5**)
    - a. Ever wanted something with all your heart only to discover it was out of your reach? It's something maybe you'd give up just about anything for, but it's just not possible?
    - b. That is Hannah! What she desired was to have a child... a good thing! For a woman who really wants to have children this is an extremely difficult burden to bear!
    - c. She'd likely played with dolls from the time she was a toddler & dreamed of what raising children would be like – Now her dreams are shattered & the way she thought life was supposed to be simply won't be! (No diapers, teach to walk, skinned knees, etc)
    - d. How hard it must've been to watch Peninnah & her sons worship together while she had no sons to worship with! Elkanah loved her greatly & gave her twice the portions to offer, but that didn't fill the hole in her heart that not being able to have kids created
    - e. It worsens when we see how Peninnah ridiculed her (**vs. 6-7**) and we understand that back then women who were barren were looked down on... As a punishment from God?
  - 2. Hannah's influence began because she was a woman dedicated to prayer! (**1 Sam 1:10-17**)
    - a. When we meet difficult circumstances, maybe facing a hardship we really don't deserve, we may lose a little of our faith – Not Hannah! She continued to prayer even harder!
    - b. She prayed with passion and faith! She is described as "pouring out her soul" → And when she finished the sadness left her face! She left her situation in God's hands
    - c. This wasn't the only time she prayed hard – By reading this prayer & thinking of her faith we can know assuredly that she was a mother with a **strong consistent** prayer life!
  - 3. Her influence continued as she gave her son up to go into the Lord's service! (**1 Sam 1:24-28**)
    - a. She wanted a son for so long & prayed so passionately for one... now that she has a son she has to give him up? God answered her prayer so she's sticking to her vow!
    - b. We can see God's plan throughout all of this, but Hannah didn't have the perspective we have looking back on it! This strengthens the sacrifice she was willing to make!
    - c. Samuel went on to be a great judge in Israel and a great spiritual leader! He did many wonderful things, but it would've never been without the faith of this one mother!
    - d. Her faith, courage, dedication, & commitment to her word was a legacy she left in her son
  - 4. Hannah stands as a great example to all women and especially mothers today:
    - a. While we know prayer is powerful sometimes we question it's power when it relates to

- our own situations... But not Hannah! She claimed its power personally in her life!
- b. If you had tried to have children for years and had been told you could not have children, would you respond in faith like Hannah did or would you just give up? **(Luke 18:1-8)**
- c. While she's not limited to this, one of the greatest things a woman can do is pray! Hannah changed the course of Israel's history by prayer... Don't minimize this great work!
- d. As Samuel emulated the great faith Hannah displayed you need to remember that your children are watching you! You are creating a spiritual legacy!

**B. Next, let's look at the godly influence of Naomi, the mother-in-law of Ruth:**

1. As sad as Hannah's circumstances were, Naomi's life was equally tragic, if not more! **(Ruth 1:1-5)**
  - a. It must have been a difficult decision for Elimelech to pick up his family his family and leave Bethlehem for a foreign country! It had to be just as tough on the family too!
  - b. Now imagine what it must have been like for Naomi – She's moved to a foreign country and then her husband dies... some time later her only two children die as well!
  - c. You might could place this mother's life in the same category as that of Job! It's tragic!
2. As Naomi decides to leave the land of Moab and return back to Bethlehem she is a mother who has lost hope and even become bitter! **(Ruth 1:11-12, 19-21)**
  - a. As the story goes, when Naomi went to return home she encouraged Ruth & Orpah, to go back to their original families in Moab – But Ruth insisted that she stay with Naomi
  - b. Naomi basically says, "Look, why would you want to go with me? I'm old & without a husband and your husbands are dead! I appreciate it, but my situation is hopeless!"
  - c. When she and Ruth arrive in Jerusalem the people are excited about seeing Naomi but she says don't call me Naomi (which means pleasant) call me Mara (which means bitter)
  - d. Orpah returned to Moab & Ruth stayed by Naomi's side – Why? She became her mother!
3. Naomi had to be a great example of character & faith for Ruth to make this move! **(Ruth 1:14-17)**
  - a. We don't read of Naomi teaching Ruth about God. We don't read of Naomi praying or worshipping in front of Ruth → But Naomi's faith and character shine forth in this!
  - b. But we see all of this by simply reading between the lines and make some safe assumptions... Had Naomi not been a great example of faith & taught Ruth about Jehovah, Ruth would not have made the Lord such a focal point of her vow to Naomi!
  - c. Ruth watched as Naomi suffered the loss of her husband and two sons – It took its toll on her & Naomi felt it was God's doing... But she never seems to lose her faith in God!
  - d. When Ruth meets Boaz, it was Naomi who was quick to give God the glory! **(Ruth 2:20)**
4. She showed great love & loyalty for Ruth, treating her as her own daughter! **(Ruth 3:1, 10, 16, 18)**
  - a. Naomi never refers to Ruth by her name... Every time she speaks to her or of her she says, "My daughter" → She took Ruth in as her own and gave her a real place in Israel!
  - b. Naomi played a very vital role in helping Ruth get fixed up with Boaz and eventually they would become married (their son was Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David)
  - c. She continues to look out for Ruth's welfare ahead of her own – When they set up life in Bethlehem Naomi's didn't drown in her misery but focused on getting Ruth married
  - d. This love was not one sided – Everyone saw & spoke of Ruth's love for her! **(Ruth 4:14-15)**
5. Naomi stands as a great example to all women and mothers today!
  - a. She teaches all mothers, and everyone, that even when you may think you are at your lowest, when you feel you have nothing to offer God, He can use you! **(2 Cor 12:9)**
  - b. Maybe you are a mother who is older and you have lost your husband or you have had to

- bury a child → In the midst of heartache and heartbreak, don't give up your faith!
- c. She reminds us to never underestimate the impact the example of your faith and character is having on others... The simple decisions you make in life, the way you quietly but consistently serve the Lord can make others want to know God more! **(1 Pet 3:1-5)**
  - d. She stands as a wonderful example to mothers and mother-in-laws of seeking the best for their children and putting their needs ahead of their own **(Philippians 2:3-5)**