

Motherhood is Not Always Glamorous

Judges 13:24-25

24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol. NKJV

Often in the face of successful people, the persons responsible for their success fade into the background. And most would have it just that way. So in the case of Samson this is true. We do not even have a name for his mother. Oh I am sure that she had one. But we do not know it. And as we get into this story we will all wonder why not. It could be that it was just forgotten over the years from the time of the events to the time the accounts were written down. Or as is the case with some prophets of the Lord, the servants name is not as significant as their message.

To get this whole story we need to go back to the beginning of chapter 13 of Judges. If you would like to follow along you will find it on page 267 in the pew Bibles.

- I. It was a difficult time.
 - A. V-1 Again the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.
 - B. So for 40 years they had been under the oppression of their enemies.
 - C. This would have brought all sorts problems from the introduction to idol worship and immoral living into Israel.
- II. But God uses an insignificant family to bring deliverance to the people.
 - A. V-2 Now there was a certain man from Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren and had no children.
 - B. On Mother's Day I have often felt sorry for those who would have been mothers but it did not work out for them.
 - 1. I remember at one church, a certain woman who would have made a great mother but she did not have the qualities that most often attract a mate. She was faithful to the Lord, worked well with children and I always felt sorry for her on mother's day because she would never know the honor and satisfaction that comes from seeing your own children grow under your tutelage.
 - 2. This was the case of this woman.
 - 3. We do not know her age, but by the time that Samson is in his 40s she is deceased.
 - C. 3 And the Angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, "Indeed now, you are barren and have borne no children, but you shall conceive and bear a son.

1. Now this is not something that happened every other day in Israel.
2. But God will use this woman and has some special commands for her to follow in raising her son that God would give her.
 - a. 4 Now therefore, please be careful not to drink wine or similar drink, and not to eat anything unclean. 5 For behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. And no razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.”
 - b. Sampson was to be a Nazirite all the days of his life.
 - c. The specific requirements concerning the Nazirite are found in Numbers 6.
 - d. But according to this passage, because of the requirements place on this woman, Sampson would be a Nazirite from conception.

III. She goes to her husband to tell him the good news.

- A. 6 So the woman came and told her husband, saying, “A Man of God came to me, and His countenance was like the countenance of the Angel of God, very awesome; but I did not ask Him where He was from, and He did not tell me His name. 7 And He said to me, ‘Behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. Now drink no wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb to the day of his death.’”

IV. The message is reaffirmed to Manoah, her husband.

- A. 8 Then Manoah prayed to the Lord, and said, “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” 9 And God listened to the voice of Manoah, and the Angel of God came to the woman again as she was sitting in the field; but Manoah her husband was not with her. 10 Then the woman ran in haste and told her husband, and said to him, “Look, the Man who came to me the other day has just now appeared to me!” 11 So Manoah arose and followed his wife. When he came to the Man, he said to Him, “Are You the Man who spoke to this woman?” And He said, “I am.” 12 Manoah said, “Now let Your words come to pass! What will be the boy’s rule of life, and his work?” 13 So the Angel of the Lord said to Manoah, “Of all that I said to the woman let her be careful. 14 She may not eat anything that comes from the vine, nor may she drink wine or similar drink, nor eat anything unclean. All that I commanded her let her observe.”

V. Notice the spiritual perception of the woman.

- A. 22 And Manoah said to his wife, “We shall surely die, because we have seen God!” 23 But his wife said to him, “If the Lord had desired to kill us, He would not have accepted a burnt offering and a grain offering from our hands, nor would

He have shown us all these things, nor would He have told us such things as these at this time.” 24 So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him. 25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move upon him at Mahaneh Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

- B. Every indication is that she obeyed the word of the Angel of the Lord.
- C. She no doubt raised her son just as she was supposed to do.
- D. But as is often the case, when her son was old enough to make his own decisions he did not follow his mother any more.

VI. But now the rest of the story.

A. Sampson has a woman problem, he can never get the right woman.

1. First he chooses a woman from Timnah

- a. Now Samson went down to Timnah, and saw a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines. 2 So he went up and told his father and mother, saying, “I have seen a woman in Timnah of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.” 3 Then his father and mother said to him, “Is there no woman among the daughters of your brethren, or among all my people, that you must go and get a wife from the uncircumcised Philistines?” And Samson said to his father, “Get her for me, for she pleases me well.”
- b. I am sure that his mother and father could see the end of the road for Sampson that he could not see.
- c. Children often think their parents were just dropped out of the sky just before the child was born and have no knowledge of being a young person themselves.
- d. But I am sure that this broke the heart of Sampson’s mother.
- e. She had invested so much in him and guided his life so carefully all those years and now he turns away from, at least some of those teachings.

2. But mothers and fathers have to realize that after all you do, each person must stand before God for themselves.

3. They make life decisions that do not reflect their up bring.

4. Now this is not to release all parents from the things they did wrong in raising their children.

5. Nor does it mean that children cannot rise above the mistakes of their parents.

- B. Finally he chooses Delilah.
 - 1. This was later in his life and I do not think his mother and father were around to be disappointed any more.

VII. My message to mothers.

- A. You cannot be too careful.
 - 1. Your children will either be your greatest joy or your greatest sorrow.
 - 2. And you can be directly responsible for the result.
 - 3. I did not say are but can.
- B. Pray for your children.
 - 1. As I get older and my family grows, I find myself taking up the prayers of Job.
 - 2. Job interceded on behalf of his children, offering sacrifices and praying for their forgiveness.
 - 3. God can have influence where you never can.
 - 4. I was thinking this week of my godly grandmother.
 - a. She had some children that brought her great sorrow.
 - b. But she prayed and prayed and prayed.
 - c. Some times I wonder if all that I am is because of those prayers.
 - d. You see God promises to bless those to a thousand generation, those that fear Him.
 - e. Deut 7:9 Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. 11 Therefore you shall keep the commandment, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them. NKJV