

THE Rock COMMUNITY CHURCH

1 Samuel 1:21-28

“Surrendering Samuel”

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

21:41

While they're making their way back to their seats, I want to invite you to grab your Bible and make your way to 1 Samuel.

21:47

1 Samuel chapter one, we're gonna look at this week. If you didn't bring your Bible and you wanna follow along with the one that's hiding underneath of your chair, we're gonna be on page 274 and those Bibles make it easy for you to find where we're at.

22:00

So this week, as we're jumping into our passage, this week is going to serve as an encouragement to all those families out there who have raised kids. Because this morning we're gonna look at a story in 1 Samuel where we see Hannah leave her son, Samuel, at church and it pleased God.

22:19

So for all those families who have left a kid at church, you're in good company, right? This certainly never happened to me when I was a kid and it definitely has never happened where Kari and I thought, well, you've got that kid, but no, you've got that...

22:32

And we realized that, no, that definitely has never happened to us. As I look around the room, I saw a few looks between couples, so I know I'm in good company! But this morning we're gonna look at Hannah and how she brings Samuel to the Lord, dedicates him after praying earnestly for this son that we saw last week in our passage.

22:53

God granted Hannah's request at the end of last week's passage and Hannah has a son now, Samuel. And as Hannah had promised last week as we looked at it, Hannah said that she would give her son to the Lord for his service if God would give her a son.

23:10

And so this week we see the time has finally come for Hannah to fulfill her vow and to dedicate her son to God's service. So this is one final scene that we're gonna get to see in this story of Hannah that we're looking at.

23:24

So we're gonna see in this week's passage, we're gonna see there's a time of preparation, and then we're going to see open-handed worship as Hannah surrenders her son to the Lord and places him into the Lord's hand.

23:35

So I wanna invite you to read with me. We're gonna read 1 Samuel chapter one. We're gonna start in verse 21, and we're gonna go down through the end of the chapter through verse 28. Invite you to follow along as I read.

23:46

It says in verse 21 that the man, the husband, Elcana, and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah, his wife, did not go up,

for she said to her husband, as soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there forever.

24:06

And Elcana, her husband, said to her, do what seems best to you. Wait until you have weaned him, only may the Lord establish his word. So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three -year -old bull, an ephah of flower, and a skin of wine.

24:26

And she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, oh my Lord, as you live, my Lord, I am the woman who is standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord.

24:41

For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore, I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he has lent to the Lord, and he worshiped the Lord there.

24:53

This is the word of the Lord. Would you pray with me? God, we thank you for your word. We thank you for this story, as we see Elcana and Hannah being obedient to do what you have called them to do. God, we thank you for Hannah's heart to worship and to surrender her son to you.

25:13

And God, we pray this morning as we consider Hannah's willingness to sacrifice in her worship. We pray that you would help us to consider how you would have us to be obedient to different areas in our lives.

25:25

So we pray that you would speak now for your servants who are listening. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen. Well, the first thing that we're gonna see in our passage in the first few verses is that Hannah and Elcana have a time of preparation here at the beginning of this passage.

25:44

We look at verse 21, it tells us, the man Elcana and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. Last week we talked a little bit about Alcana, how he was leading his family to worship and leading his family well.

26:00

But Elcana continues this normal practice for him of taking all his house with him to the sanctuary of the Lord, into the house of the Lord. And so Elcana is going to Shiloh again. He's taking his family to go into worship, to offer a sacrifice to the Lord.

26:15

And we don't know much about this man, Elcana, beyond what we see here in this passage. But it does seem to me as we consider him, it seems to me like Elcana was a faithful man who led his family well.

26:29

We see that he faithfully led his family to worship God, that they regularly went to the house of God together, that they worship, that they sacrifice, and he was obedient to do what God had commanded him to do.

26:41

Think he's a man that we should notice and respect and value his example that we see here. As we continue and look at verse 22 and 23, it tells us that Hannah didn't go with him this time, for she said to her husband, as soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there forever.

27:01

So Elcana, her husband said to her, do what seems best, wait until you have weaned him, only may the Lord establish his word, so the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. Hannah doesn't participate in the family's usual visit to go to Shiloh to worship together as a family, instead she stays home.

27:21

She stays home with her infant son, but she does make it clear, I'm not just staying home because I wanna watch the football game. She stays home with her infant son because she's preparing herself to, she's preparing herself to offer the sacrifice that she knew she needed to make.

27:40

The prayer that she prayed years earlier, she knew that it was gonna be time for her to fulfill that vow that she had made one day. So she makes it clear that she wants to wait to prepare herself so that when she goes back into the temple, as she goes back into the house of God, she wants to be prepared to give her son, to place Samuel in the Lord's hands and trust that God is gonna do with him what God wants to do with him.

28:08

This isn't her shirking her responsibilities to go into worship, instead she's focused on her vow to give Samuel to the Lord and wanted to be prepared to follow through when that time came. The statement that we see here in verse 22 that says that Samuel would dwell in the presence of the Lord forever.

28:25

It shows us that Hannah expected her son to stay there in God's service. That when she went and took this son to the Lord, we see a child dedication happen here, right? Should have probably preached this last week as we had child dedication here at our church.

28:41

But we see that Hannah knows that her son is going to stay at the church. That he's gonna be left there in the Lord's service and she's going to surrender her most precious thing in life. Anybody who's been a parent knows you would give anything for your child, right?

29:01

What we see here is that Hannah was willing to trust God above everything else in life. That she was willing to lay down her most precious treasure in her son. That she had prayed for, that she had desperately longed for.

29:16

She's prepared to leave him there in God's service for the rest of his life, but she wants to make sure that he's old enough that he's ready. Okay, now we see her husband, Hannah's husband. He appears to be in full support of the plan, right?

29:32

What we see here is that he agrees with her plan. He says, do what seems best to you and wait until you have weaned the child before we take him to the temple. I do wanna point out here, as I was studying this week, I just thought this was interesting and kind of helped set our timeline a little bit in our head.

29:49

So as I was studying, I learned this week that children in that time in history were often nursed until they were two or three years old. It's actually mentioned in an extra biblical writing in 2 Maccabees from that time period that children were two to perhaps even three or four by the time they were weaned.

30:08

It makes sense, right? There was no rice cereal, there was no formula. The simulac didn't exist back then. They knew that the nursing, the baby worked, and so they did what they knew worked. There was a period, perhaps two or three years, during which Hannah got to care for this son that God had given to her.

30:27

But the statement in verse 23, as Elcana is saying, that do what seems best to you only, may the Lord establish his word. It reveals to us that Elcana, husband and Hannah, the wife are focused on God, that God is the source of this child, that God is going to be the recipient of this child, that God is the one that is at work in this story and in this child's life.

30:51

They expected this child to be born in a special way, and he was. They expected this child to be used in a special way in the service of God. They didn't know what it was, but they knew that God had a plan for their son.

31:04

And as we continue through this book of the Bible, as our series continues on, we're gonna see that there was a plan, that God was at work in this story. Just as we saw last week, Hannah and Elcana are clearly focused on God.

31:20

They're clearly focused on his work, not on their own desires, not on their want to keep control of things or for them to just be focused on their actions. Elcana's comment, may the Lord establish his word, reminds us that this entire process of dedicating Samuel, it was God's plan.

31:40

It was God's plan that was at work for Hannah and Elcana and even for this baby, Samuel. And so as Hannah and Elcana are making plans to go and to take their child into the house of the Lord, I think it teaches us a valuable lesson.

31:54

Now I paused and I thought about this this week because we see Elcana's leading his family well as it talks about how he, as they often did every year, he's taking his family to worship in Shiloh to go and to offer their sacrifices.

32:09

It tells us that Hannah had this plan to dedicate Samuel to God's work and both of those things required preparation. They had to be ready to go and to do what they needed to do. There was an offering that needed to be brought.

32:24

There was a bull that needed to be raised up and taken with them. There was flour and wine and these different things that went along with the sacrifices. Even to the point of making sure that Hannah had raised up her son to the point where he could stay at the temple and be healthy and be cared for.

32:40

Hannah knew that preparation needed to be made for the worship that she was about to offer. I think there's an application for us in this, right? Because there are many times in life where we just give God whatever we've got on hand.

32:54

We look around and God says, hey, I'm over here. Am I an important part of your life? And we go, uhh yes. And we kind of look like those parents that weren't ready for the trick or treaters to come and they just run around the house and go, umm do you want a microphone? I can give you a microphone.

33:09

Yeah, we just panic and we don't know really what we're doing because we're not prepared to worship. We're not prepared to surrender appropriately to God in whatever it is that's going on.

33:21

God honoring worship and God honoring holy living requires preparation for us sometimes. This isn't something that happens by accident in our lives. We don't accidentally do the right things. Maybe you do, but I think you probably don't.

33:35

I know I certainly don't accidentally do the right thing. If I'm just kind of drifting through life, just seeing what happens, I'm just gonna go out and have some fun on a Saturday night. We'll see what happens, right?

33:48

Probably not gonna accidentally bump into making the right choice in that moment. If we take the lazy path, we take the easy path, probably not the godly path, is it? I'm reminded of the line from that old hymn, come thou fount of every blessing.

34:06

It says in the middle of that song, prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love. And then the prayer is, here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it. The reality is that all of us have that same experience in our lives.

34:21

All of us are prone to wander. All of us are prone to get knocked off course if we just take the lazy way and just do whatever comes easily for us. We have to prepare for success. That means that by getting ourselves ready to do the right thing whenever we're able, we know that a difficult challenge is going to come one day.

34:42

I've heard it said that if you're not in the middle of a challenge right now, that means you either just came out of one or you're getting ready to go into one, right? There's times where it seems like life is just one trial to the next, to the next, to the next.

34:58

And if we just take those as they come and just kind of see what happens, we stumble more than we walk. We fail more than we succeed. This means being ready to do the right thing whenever we're able.

35:12

It also means being proactive to avoid situations where sinful slips are going to be possible. Romans 13:14 kind of explicitly reminds us of this. It tells us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and it tells us to make no provision for the flesh to gratify its desires.

35:31

Yeah, I've had more than a few conversations in my life and in my opportunities to go and to counsel families or to sit down with men or women and just kind of talk through what's going on in their marriage.

35:43

How did we end up here? I don't know how this happens. The reality is that it doesn't just accidentally happen that we fall off the wagon. I've never heard of someone accidentally walking into Target just blind as blind can be and just accidentally having an affair when they were in there picking up eggs and deodorant.

36:02

Right? It doesn't happen that way. There's steps that lead to that. We make provision for the flesh as Paul's warning us in Romans 13. Don't make provision. If you go into a bar on a Saturday night and you have a temptation towards alcohol and abusing that, it's probably not the best place for you to be, is it?

36:22

I don't know how that happened. I do. You went to the bar late at night and you made provision for the flesh. I don't know how this happened. I love my wife, but I just happened to have this affair. I didn't know how it happened.

36:37

You weren't careful in the little moments when you went and spent time with her. You had that little text message thread with him and back and forth and friendly, turned into a little too friendly, turned into something that you didn't want to do.

36:51

There's these moments in life where we have to be proactive. We have to avoid situations where those sinful slips are possible. We have to prepare ourselves, not just take the easy path, not just take the path that's in front of us, not just see how it goes in life because being prepared for success means we have to be ready to do the right thing, but it also means we need to be careful not to put ourselves in the position to do the wrong thing.

37:20

Be prepared to offer your best to God. We continue through this passage. We see Hannah, we see Elcana's open-handed worship in verses 24 through 28. We look at this second half of our passage. We see it says that when she had weaned the son, that she, Hannah, took him up with her along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh, and the child was young.

37:50

Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. Verse 24 reflects a generous offering that Hannah and Elcana brought to God when the time came to dedicate Samuel to the Lord. The translation for their offering, it can be translated as a three-year-old bull, that's what the ESV, our translation here that we're reading, says.

38:13

It can also be rendered in some other English translations as three bulls that they brought their animals to be sacrificed, whether the three describes the age or the number of the bulls. Hannah and Elcana were devout in their worship to the Lord and they offered generously what they were able to offer to God.

38:32

There was no, here's my leftovers. There was no, oh no, the trick or treaters are here, what are we gonna give to God in this moment? They came and they came prepared and after they had sacrificed their animal, they took the child to Eli, the priest, to fulfill the vow that they had made as Hannah had promised that she was going to be obedient and going to give this child back to God if God would bless her with a son.

38:58

We continue into verse 26 and it tells us that Hannah said, oh my Lord, Eli, the priest, as you live my Lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him.

39:14

Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he has lent to the Lord and he worshiped the Lord there. Hannah tells Eli, she wants to point back, maybe Eli forgot, but she wants to point back and remind him that she is the woman that he had seen a few years earlier.

39:33

You remember that woman that you thought was drunk and mumbling in the corner and confused and didn't know where she was and she was just sitting there babbling in the corner? That was me. You remember that I told you that I was praying for a son, that God would bless me with that son.

39:47

And so as she stood in the courtyard praying that day, as Eli came and approached her, her statement to Eli now, three years later, it includes acknowledgement that this child is from God. This isn't something that she just took into her own hands, that she's taking credit for in her own life.

40:06

She's saying that this child is a blessing from God and an answer to her prayers. Hannah is reinforcing the conclusion that we came to last week as we were looking at that passage. She's telling Eli, hey, Eli, probably not something you should have to tell the priest, but she's telling him prayer works.

40:25

Prayer makes a difference in things. You remember how I was here praying before the Lord and God answered my prayer. God heard me and he answered my petition to give me a child. God had blessed her with the son that she had prayed for and she wanted to give glory back to God for his miraculous work that he had done in her life.

40:47

In verse 28, I just want to make sure that this one thing is clear because we read verse 28. It says, as she's commenting on this son, and Hannah says, as long as he lives, he has lent to the Lord. She says, I have lent.

41:02

This is probably a formal declaration accompanying her action to give her child to the temple, to give her child to the Lord. It's kind of a with this ring, "I thee wed" kind of a situation. Her saying that she's lending her child to the Lord.

41:18

It's not conveying some idea of she's putting him out on loan and then she's going to get him back in a few years once he's fulfilled his oath. There is an utter, an irrevocable dedication saying this child belongs to the Lord.

41:33

She's not lending him out. She's placing him into God's hand and saying he's yours. So what do we do with this passage? What do we do with 1 Samuel chapter one? How do we make sense of all of these things that we're looking at?

41:48

We see these different people, but what's the takeaway? If this ancient story that we're looking at, these ancient characters of Hannah and Elcana, Samuel even, Eli, what do we learn from these characters that we see in this story?

42:06

Do we need to just be more like Hannah? Do we need to men just be more like Elcana, lead our families in the same way that he did? Well, certainly Hannah and Elcana model some wonderful things for us, don't they?

42:19

Hannah was a woman who was devoted in prayer. She laid her soul out before the Lord and just "God here it is." We saw this fervent prayer, this passionate prayer of a woman last week, just laying her soul out before God as she was dealing with all this turmoil, all this pain in her life.

42:40

And in the same way that Hannah laid her soul out before God, we should respond in the same way. We should lay ourselves and our concerns and our fears and our desires before God in prayer. We should take those things to God.

42:55

We also, we see Elcana, he faithfully led his family. He did a wonderful job of leading his family to faithfully worship, that every time they had an opportunity, every time it was time, they went and they offered the sacrifice that they were supposed to offer.

43:09

He led his family and worship the way that he should. But here's the danger that we're going to face in this book. And we're gonna face this several times throughout this book. We're looking at these books of first and second Samuel.

43:21

It's this story, there's this narrative that's taking place here. And if we make this book all about following the example of these model citizens that we're going to see in this book, the problem is that sometimes those model citizens fail.

43:37

Problem is also, what do we do when those model citizens and the things that we see in them, that doesn't happen in our lives? What do we do when God doesn't respond to our problem in the same way that he responded to Hannah's?

43:50

He heard Hannah's prayer and he answered Hannah's prayer with a yes. What happens when God answers our prayer with a no? What happens if God answers our prayer with a not right now? What if you lay your desires out before God and even if you ask really, really nicely, he decides that it's not the right time.

44:13

He doesn't give you what you asked for. See, we have to be careful not to take the experiences of these individuals that we see in this story and turn them into some sort of a formula. That if we just follow these steps, if we do the same things that Hannah did, then we can manipulate God into giving us what we wanted because we see that he did that with Hannah.

44:34

If we turn this story into that, we completely miss the entire message of what's going on in these characters. First Samuel is not about Hannah. First Samuel is not about Elcana. First Samuel is not even about Samuel.

44:56

First Samuel is about God. This chapter along with all of the rest of the Bible is about God, that God is at work in the lives of people, that God is accomplishing what he wants to accomplish in the events that we see taking place in these stories.

45:11

You know, as one of my favorite preachers kind of famously preached years ago, he stood in a pulpit and he said, you're not David. I think that's a good reminder for us as we start through these stories.

45:25

Because this book, if we look at this book, if we look at First Samuel and we look at Second Samuel next year and we look at these stories and we have this heart, this desire, we look at these stories and we make this book about us, if we look for ways to put ourselves into these stories to make ourselves the hero in this story, well, ladies, you say, I just wanna be like Hannah.

45:49

I just wanna live the way that Hannah did and God's gonna bless me the way that he blessed Hannah. If we do that, we miss the point. Guys, if we just place ourselves into this story here with Elcana or you do the same thing with David in a few months when we see the story of David and Goliath, you're not the hero in the story.

46:12

Hannah's not the hero in the story. Elcana's not the hero in the story. Samuel is not the hero in the story. We don't need to place ourselves in the story. We don't need to look for heroes, men and women, in the story because the Bible doesn't need another hero.

46:27

It already has one. God is the hero in these stories. The Bible is about God, not about us looking for a trick to get what we want. So what we see in first Samuel chapter one is that God is sovereignly answering the prayer of this woman, Hannah.

46:45

God is the hero here. God is at work. God is doing something and accomplishing something in this young family. And we have to continue through this story to see what God is going to do. If you've read ahead and kinda cheated and read the end of the book, you know this baby, Samuel has got some pretty incredible things in his future.

47:05

This baby, Samuel has some pretty incredible men that he is going to interact with in his future. There are some amazing things that are going to happen that God is going to do some powerful works as he reveals how great he is and the stories that take place in this book.

47:23

But God is the hero in this story because God is the hero in all the stories. God is gonna give his children what he knows is best for his children. And for Hannah, that was a son. And for you, that might be an answer of yes for whatever your prayer is.

47:40

And that might also be not right now. And that might also be no. That is why we see Hannah and Elcana offer what I would describe as open -handed worship in this passage. open -handed worship. What do I mean by that?

47:57

What is open -handed worship? Why are we talking about the way that we hold our hands? What's that a picture of? I would ask how we should live in response to the realization that God is in control, that He knows what's best for us.

48:14

How could we illustrate that? Well, I think we can illustrate that with the picture of open hands. We've got the picture up here simply standing with your hands open. There's a couple of things that are true.

48:26

If you sit with your hands open like this, there's a couple of different things that are true of you. It's such a simple little picture, but I think it communicates really clearly to us something that's just essential in our relationship with the Lord, in our interactions with the Lord.

48:43

Because if we're holding our hands open, it allows us to easily receive from God whatever it is that He wants to place into our hands. If I'm standing here with my arms crossed or I've got my hands in my pockets, I'm not ready to receive what God has for me.

48:56

But if my hands are open, God is able to come and to bring into my life and to place things into my life. God can easily bring things in whenever He feels like it. If our hands are held open, though, if they stay open, when God brings things and places them into our lives, that's one we want to sign up for, right?

49:17

God, you can bring things into my life, but if I stay here with my hands open and they stay open, even when He gives me something, that means that He can also come along and He can take it away whenever He's ready to.

49:31

It means that God can come and easily remove things when God is. We have to understand who God is before we can believe that living open-handedly before Him is a good idea. Because we have to believe that God is who He says He is.

49:56

We have to believe that God is powerful, that God is able to accomplish what He wants to accomplish. God gave a barren woman a child last week. God can accomplish what He wants to accomplish. God is going to use a small shepherd boy to defeat a physical giant in a few chapters.

50:15

God is able to accomplish what God wants to accomplish. And so if God wants to bring something into your life, He is more than able to do that. But also, the Bible refers to God as our Father, more than any other title that is used for Him.

50:31

Jesus referred to Him as Father. We are able to go to God if we have received the offer of salvation that God made available to us. We are able to come to God and refer to Him as Father. That means that our Father is going to give us what's best for us.

50:50

That as a loving Father, He's going to do what's best for us whenever an opportunity arises. It means that we would be wise to keep our hands open. Because as a parent, I know that there's times where my children need something and I want to bless them with that.

51:05

There's also times where things get dangerous for my children and I need to take something away from them. I need to remove them from some danger. I need to remove something from their world because it's going to be a problem in the future.

51:17

When God comes along and wants to place something in my life, I want to be ready to receive it. But if God comes along and needs to remove something, I want my hands open and prepared to let it go. Because if I am clutching that thing so tightly, if I'm trying to hide it in the corner and hang on tight, God, you're not taking this from me. It's mine!

51:36

Right? If I have that posture, is God able to take it from me? He's still able to take it from me, isn't He? It's probably just going to hurt me a little bit more as He has to pry my fingers open so that He can take it away from me.

51:53

I'm going to experience more pain than if I willingly surrendered it. You know, with Hannah as our model this week, as she comes before the Lord in this passage, as she places her son into God's hands and says, whatever it is that you want to do with Him, God, He's yours.

52:15

It brings me to the point that I think there's a question for us to consider this morning. Because as we see Hannah as our model, our question to apply this is fairly simple. Simple to state, simple to consider, likely really difficult for us to apply though.

52:38

With Hannah as our model, my question for us this morning is, are you willing to trust God with your greatest treasure in life? Hannah came and after Hannah had prayed, passionately begged God for this child.

52:56

She has this opportunity to grow to love this child over the few years that she had with him as that toddler is growing up, being weaned. Hannah now brings that child before the Lord and says, God, I trust you.

53:14

And she places what was, I believe, her greatest treasure in life. She places him into God's hands. She trusts God above what she wants. So what is your greatest treasure? What is the thing in life that you love more?

53:37

What is the thing that if God came and tapped you on the shoulder and said, God, I trust you. God asked you for your family. Would you be willing to change something in your family? Would you be willing to surrender a child like Hannah was?

53:59

If God came and tapped you on the shoulder and said, and he wanted your job, and he wanted a relationship that's in your life, he wanted your house, he wanted you to move, he wanted you to give up everything as Jesus challenged the rich young ruler to sell all your possessions, give what you have to the poor, and come and follow me, would you be willing to?

54:23

What is your greatest treasure in life? What is the thing that perhaps this morning we need to loosen our grip on a little bit? That the posture of our life is this. You look more like Gollum from the Lord of the Rings.

54:42

That, yeah, that thing is your, nope, it's mine. What is that thing in your life? Are you willing to pry your own fingers open and hold your hands before God like this? God might not want it from you.

54:58

God might bless you with the greatest job that has ever been in the history of jobs. God might bless you with more prosperity than you know what to do with, more money than you are able to fit in your pockets or the biggest vault like Scrooge McDuck has in the history of the world.

55:12

But he wants us to live with open hands because if God wants to come along and place that into your hands, you say thank you, Lord. Thank you, Father. And if God wants to come along and take something out of your hands, you know how we respond?

55:31

By saying yes, Lord, thank you, Father. Because we know that what God does for us is what's best for us. Hannah realized that. Hannah prepared herself to offer her worship and she offered her worship with open hands and said, God, this treasure that you have given to me.

55:50

Verse 27, for this child I prayed and the Lord has granted me my petition. That was her baby. And she placed him in God's hands and said, God, you've got a bigger plan for him than what I'm able to imagine.

56:10

What do you need to loosen your grip on this morning? What is your greatest treasure? Because ultimately, God is our greatest treasure, should be. That means that whatever else we've got going on in life whatever other thing, we don't clutch it and hang on.

56:34

Say it's mine. We say, Father, I trust you and whatever you say is best, that's what's best. Take it if you wanna take it, give if you wanna give, but you're my good Father. Thank you. Our prayer team is going to be down here after the service is over.

56:53

They would love to pray with you about whatever it is that you've got going on. If you've got bags of gold or children that need to be left here at church this morning, they can be deposited up here on the...

57:04

Our prayer team will be down here after service. We've got our prayer wall back in the back hallway if you'd like to go write your prayer request down and leave those back there as well. We would love to pray for you whatever it is that you've got going on in life.

57:17

We would love to help in any way that we can. But I want to invite you, would you pray with me now as we finish? God, we thank you for. God, for this story that we could consider how you were at work in Hannah and Elcana and Samuel's lives.

57:37

As Eli was there at the temple and saw, got to witness this incredible family come and sacrifice. God, that they gave generously to you. They offered a bull, three bulls, whatever it was. God as they came and brought their precious child that you had blessed them with and laid him before you and said, God, he's yours.

58:02

They surrendered their greatest treasure. And we pray that you would help us to loosen the grip in our own lives. God that we would prepare ourselves to be obedient to whatever it is that you ask of us.

58:16

God, if there are times when you ask us to surrender something, we pray that we would trustingly and lovingly give you whatever it is that you ask for, that we would generously give even beyond what you have demanded.

58:29

God, we pray that you would help us to, that you would help us to prepare, that you would help us to be ready to do the things that you ask us to do. God, Hannah and Elcana, they didn't just accidentally bump into obedience.

58:53

They prepared themselves for it. God, this morning as we consider your word, we pray that you would help us to prepare to be obedient in whatever it is that you call us to.

God, if you're tapping some on the shoulder this morning saying, I want that, you need to surrender something in your life, we pray that we would be obedient in those things.

59:16

God, if there's some pet sin in someone's life, if there's some thing that needs to be surrendered, if there's something that we have made an idol of that's more important in our lives than you, we pray that we would kill those things.

59:29

God, that we would lay those things aside, that we would hold them appropriately with our hands open. God, we thank you for loving us, we thank you that we can trust you, that you are our good father, that we know that whatever it is that you bring, it's what's best.

59:55

We pray for your work in our lives. We pray that you would generously pour out blessings on us, that you would use us for your work, that you would accomplish in us and that you would accomplish through us what you desire.

01:00:14

God, we thank you for loving us, we thank you for adopting us as your son or your daughter, if we have placed our faith in you, put on Christ. We thank you for the blessings that you give and we thank you for the blessings of times when you take away.

01:00:34

It's in Jesus' name, we pray, amen.