“LEGACY OF A GODLY MOTHER”
1 SAMUEL 1 & 2

MAY 8, 2011, SUNDAY, 11:00 AM – DR. JACK GRAHAM

[applause] Thank you, Jen Griffin on the violin, and Sherry Bell ah… this morning for that beautiful music. What a great time of worship, and Sherry’s beautiful mom is here today. Stand up with your mom, Sherry Bell, and ah… those of you on the north campus, maybe you can get a good look of Sherry and her beautiful mom. And, Todd, while we’re at it, stand up with your mom, Todd Bell’s beautiful mother is here today. Right there! [pastor chuckles.] And I hope you have the opportunity ah… to… to love your mom today, either at a distance or if you can hold her near, what a precious joy that is!

I’m so grateful for my mother, now in heaven. And I’m grateful for the mother of our children, Deb Graham. And ah… just her love for our family, her devotion, her dynamic, her sense of humor. Just all the wonderful things that I can say about Deb; that men, I know that you could say about your wives as well.

It’s all about the legacy of our lives and making our lives matter, and that’s why over the next several weeks we’re going to be talking about LIVING THIS LEGACY. A legacy is not just to be left, it is to be lived before it can be left. And we all have a legacy. It is either a good one or a poor one. It is either a legacy… an influence for Christ… the Gospel, the Word of God, the testimony of faith… or else it is a legacy for something else that is far less.

But today we’re speaking of the “Legacy of a Godly Mother.” I want us to celebrate womanhood and motherhood! We celebrate the faith and the courage and the sacrifice and the devotion; the prayers of godly mothers!

When you read your Bible you can’t help but notice the influence of women of faith: from Eve, the mother of all, to Sarah the mother of Israel, to ah… Jacobed, the mother of Moses… the deliverer: and on and on we could go. Old Testament heroines of faith like Ruth and Naomi, and over in the New Testament we meet the women of the Bible who changed the world: Mary and Martha, and Mary the mother of our Lord. The point is that God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob is also the mother of… or the father of Sarah and Rebecca and Rachel.

Now we know that men and women are different. And all the men said, “Viva la difference.” Right? As the French say. And I would say that there is a uniqueness of the woman that is far superior to a man… at being a woman; just as there is a uniqueness to the man that is far superior to the woman at being a man. God has created us to be one in Him, but there is a distinctiveness and a uniqueness of both the man and the woman. And the uniqueness of a woman is in the role and responsibility of childbearing and nurturing children. That’s not the only thing, of course, that a woman does. That is not the final and ultimate ah… influence of her life. And yet God has set the woman apart for special honor. We are to honor the women in our lives. Husbands are told in the Scripture that we should love our wives as Christ has loved the church and sacrificially, sanctifyingly gave His life for the church.

Children are to honor their parents… their mothers and their fathers. We celebrate throughout the Scriptures… We’ve just been in a series in Proverbs where wisdom is personified by a woman. There in the proverbs… Proverbs 12:4 for example: “An excellent wife is the crown of her husband.” Ah… Proverbs 31:10: “An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels.” Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians chapter 11 [:7] that “the woman is the glory of man.” The very church of the Lord Jesus Christ is identified as the bride of Christ. We’re also told that a woman is to give leadership and influence to her home.
The fact is the Christian faith elevates womanhood to extraordinary status. Among the earliest followers of Jesus were the women, unheard of in that day… a man’s world in the day of Christ, and yet Jesus blessed women and their children, He raised their dead, He forgave their sin, He exalted the status of womanhood in society, and He honored His own mother at the cross and made sure that she was well taken care of.

So today when we come to 1 Samuel chapter 1 we meet one of these powerful, passionate women of faith, and her name is Hannah. Beautiful name… it means grace. And she is the graceful and beautiful expression of motherhood. And yet, as we’re going to discover in this text, there was a time that she was desperate for a child, thinking that because God had closed her womb that she would never bear a child. She was from a very dysfunctional family. As a matter of fact her husband, Elkanah, was a loving husband, and yet he was a bigamist! And in that sense he was breaking the perfect law of God. It was never God’s will or God’s word ah… to practice bigamy, and yet she was in a home where this man had two wives.

Hannah was most likely the first of these wives, but because she could not bear a child and because of the importance of childbearing in Israel in carrying on the name of the family and the legacy of the family, this man stepped out of the will of God and took another wife. And that causes, as you can imagine, incredible rivalry and dysfunction within this home and this family. And yet, because this woman persisted in prayer and passionately cried out to God to give her a child, God blessed her. God blessed her beyond measure and through her prayers and through her family the whole world was blessed.

So look in your Bibles at 1 Samuel chapter 1. And I want to talk first of all about the profile or the portrait, if you will, of this godly mother… of a godly mother. We’re told that Hannah was obscure woman living in a remote part of Israel. Verse 1:

1) **There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim...**

The hill country was the outskirts, so Hannah was just a country girl! And his name… the husband’s name:

*was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite.*

Now I practiced a long time to get all those names just right! [laughter]

1) **He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah,**

How many moms or ladies do we have here by the name of Hannah today? Can I see your hands? Any Hannahs? It’s a beautiful name. How many Annas, a derivative of the name Hannah, and it means, as I noted, grace.

...and the name of the other (that is the other wife was) Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. 3) Now this man used to go up year by year from his city to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of hosts.

In other words, this was a religious family. And I won’t doubt the sincerity of this man and his faith. But there as they went to sacrifice:

*The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were priests of the Lord.*

Now that’s a problem, because not only did Hannah live in a very dysfunctional family, she lived in a very distressed nation, and primarily because the religious quality of the nation was in total disintegration and really, degradation, and depravity.
Eli, though a decent High Priest, had two sons that were totally out of control! They were stealing from the coffers of the Temple or the Tabernacle. They spent their times not only stealing, but chasing women and hosting prostitutes. You can read all about that… 1 Samuel chapter 2.

So as you look first at the profile of a portrait of this woman, here is a woman, first of all, who is broken… the brokenness of this woman! Because she is living in this home and in this nation where there seemed to be very little hope and very little prospect of a future and any kind of legacy. She was a country girl from nowhere, and yet God raised her up! God chose her as a godly mother.

This nation, as I mentioned, was a very dismal period in Israel’s history, the time of national decline, of moral degeneracy and spiritual darkness. The judges tell us… this was the period of the judges… that every man did what was right in his own eyes. It was chaos! It was carnality everywhere! And ultimately the very presence of God would depart from Israel and the Tabernacle… the place of worship… God would write Ichobod across the door,[1 Samuel 4:21] “The glory is departed.” And yet God was preparing… in these distressing, despicable days, God was preparing a leader, a deliverer, a prophet! And in preparing His leader, He first prepared a mother: a mother who seemingly was barren and therefore, broken.

Her husband was really not much help. [If] You read down in the first chapter, verse 6:

6) and her rival (that is, the other woman) used to provoke her grievously to iterate her because the Lord had closed her womb. So it went on year by year!

Remember, this time seemed short to us, but this must have been an interminable period of time for Hannah as she’s crying out. And so depressed that she wept and would not eat!

8) And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, “Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

Not helpful; guys! [laughter] She’s crying! She’s weeping! She’s distressed! And he’s pounding his chest, and saying, “Look at me! You got me! Why should you cry?” Not winning; not helpful. Verse 10 says that:

10) She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.

She prayed and she prayed and she prayed and she prayed again, and seemingly no answer came.

But God’s delays are not His denials. God always answers prayer. Sometimes He says no; sometimes He says slow. And in this case God was saying slow, whoa, hold on, because before the prayer could be answered, He was preparing the heart of the prayer… of the one who prayed. He was getting Hannah ready for the adventure of faith in her life! She desired to be a mother! The holy ambition of her heart was to bring a child into the world.

She believed that God had called her to be a mother.

Now motherhood is not the only calling in life. We know that the Scripture tells us that some women, as men, are called to live a single life, and others, for reasons that we do not know, are called to be childless. You do not have to be married or a mother for God to use you mightily. But it is clear in Scripture that marriage is a sacred commitment for most women, and motherhood is the highest calling of a woman’s life. This is the one unique design that God made woman physically, psychologically and spiritually to be a mother, and that the home and family is to be the essential, vital part of a woman’s life.

Anything outside of your home, ladies… anything else out there is secondary. The highest calling of a woman’s life is her family. And yet in today’s culture, of course, the role of mom is often devalued and degraded, and even dismissed in the name of women’s rights and equality and a lot of other things that we don’t have time to
mention today. But this is the portrait of this woman, full of stress and distress, anxious, burning with desire to have a child, and yet no answer on the way. But let’s note her prayer… the prayers of this godly woman, and therefore the prayers of all godly women that connect and create the answer.

From the beginning God desired the women to love her children and her husband and to influence the world through her home, and therefore, she prayed. She prays and she prays again. When you read this prayer, this is not a… “Oh, by the way, now I lay me down to sleep, good morning, Lord” kind of prayer. This prayer is passionate; it is fervent. She is crying out to God. In fact, down at verse 15 ah… she says, “I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.”

“Pouring out her soul”, to the degree that when praying at the place of worship one day, as she and her husband and the rest of the family went to the place of worship, Eli who was… who obviously had no discernment, thought that she was under the influence… that she was a drunken, worthless woman. That’s what the Scripture says. She says: “I’m not a worthless woman, sir!” She’s accused, because of her fervent prayer, of being under the influence of alcohol. She was not.

That’s a reminder of Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2) those who prayed and were lit as human candles, and began to pray and speak with languages that they had not learned. And those who didn’t have a clue like Eli didn’t have a clue as to what was going on in her heart, Hannah’s heart; they thought these were drunken men. They said, “We’re not drunk; we’re full of the Spirit of God!” And Hannah was pouring out her soul and the Spirit of God was working in her life!

Is it… Is this your ambition for your children? The ambition to produce a child that will change everything? Might even change the world? Verses 12 through 17 says:

12) As she continued praying before the Lord... Eli observed her mouth. 13) And Hannah was speaking in her heart; and only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. And therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. 14) And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” 15) But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. 16) Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.

And then Eli, seeing the sincerity and the devotion of her heart says,

17) “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to Him.”

She prayed for a child. Verse 11 tells us she vowed a vow. Now this is a key verse… note it in your Bibles.

11) She vowed a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son... (She prayed specifically for a son) …give your servant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

Now just pull up a chair, and listen to your pastor for just a moment. Is this the burning desire and ambition of your heart, ladies? Men? I really want to talk to you moms today. Is this the burning compassion and passion of your heart to raise up a godly family… children that are given completely to the Lord… sacrificially to the Lord?

I see a trending taking place among families today. We have whole… we have ambitions for our children… that they will succeed in sports and… and academics and in their careers and financially. And this is especially true
in the culture in which we live here in north Texas. There’s this… there’s this desire to put our kids out there so that our kids are winning in the eyes of the world!

But who today is praying that their children would grow up to be great in the kingdom of God!? What mother today in dark days is crying out, “O… O God, raise up my children as a light in this dark world!” Are you praying that your child would be called to preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth? Are you praying that your daughter would go as a missionary to the nations to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world? Or are you praying little small prayers that your kids will make “A’s” in school? God has called us to something greater, something higher! And that is to raise a new generation of young men and women that will boldly proclaim Christ in this generation until Christ comes again! [applause]

And that, ladies, is your calling! Forget about all that other stuff! It doesn’t mean anything compared to the legacy of faith that you can give to your children! This was not a selfish prayer. It’s not that she needed a little child just to pet. She prayed for a son, a child that would be completely given unto God! This is why she wept; this is how she cried!

And so God answered her prayer. Verse 18 says:

18) And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” And then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

My goodness! Her mission at the Tabernacle was complete, and that was to pray and get the answer from God. She is now ready to receive the answer. She is now at the place of total surrender and consecration that she can receive from God what God… God already desires to give. Remember, when we pray,[Psalm 37:4] “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” And when you pray, remember that prayer is not getting our will done on earth, but… or our will done in heaven, but God’s will done on earth! She’s now ready to pray for the purposes and plans of God! And she takes her prayer there; she leaves it there. Reminds me of that great old classic hymn, “Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there!” That’s what she did!

James tells us in James 5:16 of the power of believing prayer: “The prayer of a righteous person has great power and is working.” The moment she prayed, the answer was on the way. Effectual, fervent prayer is working! Today we have a Bible full… she had a partial revelation, but we have a Bible full of the promises and the provisions of God! Why don’t you ladies, take the Word of God and believe the promises of God and start expecting God to work in your life and your families’ that will blow you way, and make the kingdom come in your own life and your own family! It will happen!

First Peter 5[:7] says: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on Him because He cares for you.” Just write Hannah’s name next to that verse! The key to this prayer is the faith and the consecration of Hannah, and the desire and the delight of God to answer the prayers of His children. So God gave her the gift of a child. Prayer was working, the answer was on the way; the young child was born.

And her heart, in chapter 2, overflows with praise and gratitude to God. When you get home, read the second chapter of 1 Samuel. Would be a great Mother’s Day event for your family because here we see and hear the prayer, the praise, the worship of this godly woman. It’s a hymn. First Samuel chapter 2, Todd, has even been called the first psalm because it reads like a psalm. It also becomes a model for Mary’s praise and prayer when told that she would deliver the Messiah into the world. The great Magnificent that Mary prayed is very close to the praise and the exaltation of Hannah and her God.
Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the Lord (this is verse 1): my strength is exalted in the Lord. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation. (And she says) 2)… there is no rock like our God.

She says,

6) the Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. 7) The Lord makes poor, the Lord makes rich; 9) He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,

Ah… it says that He will be light in the darkness…

10) The Lord will judge of the ends of the earth; he will give strength and exaltation to all the power of his anointed.”

It is a powerful praise, obviously a woman who knew God and knew His word and His truth. Overflowing with devotion! Lost in wonder, love and praise. She is in awe of a holy God who loves her and who has blessed her beyond what she could have imagined.

Applications: Dear moms, I know, especially you young moms, there are little kids running around at your feet everyday. I know the temptation is to get tired and weary, overwhelmed! It is difficult to birth a child, I’m told. [laughter] I know no man wants to try it. [laughter] It is even more difficult to raise a child. And I get it! That you have huge responsibilities and are often overwhelmed, and I take my hat off and… and pray for many single moms here who are doing triple duty, trying to make ends meet and raise a family. We know that the times are distressing. Perhaps even more distressing than the times of the Judges when Hannah was trying to raise her family, but in this worship we see a perfect reminder of this. Lady, don’t whine about your kid. Worship your God for the gift of your children. Don’t get on your facebook and complain to your friends about how hard it is and difficult it is. “You can’t take it anymore. If you could just get the kids out of the house…”

Don’t do that… don’t do that! Ask God to help you to stay strong in your calling in life. Praise God for the privilege that you have to be a part of such a miracle as a child and that child’s life! Make it your mission above all to love God and to love your family. Do what Hannah did: forget about yourself because it’s not about you! It’s about your God and God’s calling and God’s purpose for your children and your family! Worship God for the blessing of life. Live to make your home a household of faith. Partner with God every day to raise godly children who will shine as lights on the world.

Don’t run after the world! Too many young women think they want to be Ja-Lo! God’s called you to be a precious mother of that child, to love and adore your family.

The promise of a godly mother? The son was born, He became a living example of the faithfulness of God and the future of the family in that day. His name means “Ask from the Lord” or “Ask of the Lord.” He was given to the Lord.

Now initially (Let’s wrap up this story very quickly…) Initially Hannah had the opportunity to give herself in nursing the child, weaning the child, and imparting to that little boy Samuel, in the first three years or so of his life, until he was weaned, before he was to be given to be a minister at the temple. Now think about that, by the way.

She’s going to give this child over to the service of God in the temple when she knew that the temple was corrupt and carnal and vile. And yet God… she had made a vow, she had made a promise to God and somehow she knew that God would be faithful to her son and to the future of that child. So verse 22 says, “But Hannah…”

This is chapter 1, verse 22:
22) Hannah did not go up, for she had 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.”

She knew he was not going there to serve, but to serve God. Verse 27… I love this. Write this on your mirrors, lady.

27) For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28) Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord.”

This must have been a bittersweet time for… for Hannah, as she is preparing her child… teaching her child… nurturing her child… teaching him to love God and obey God and serve Him. And, of course, we know that the first three to five years of a child’s life is critical in the formation of that child’s intellect, that child’s personality… the… the very makeup of a child is in those first years of a child’s life. Young Samuel was a child prodigy. We discover as we meet him that he was wise beyond his years. He… he was a prayerful man; he was a vibrant follower of God. The mother’s heart had taught him well!

When I was a little boy, my grandfather read the Scriptures to me every evening. And one of the stories that fascinated me, and I asked him to read it again and again, was the story of young Samuel: serving as a minister or an intern in effect, at the Tabernacle with Eli the High Priest. One evening late Samuel hears a voice speaking. He thinks it’s the High Priest. He walks into Eli’s room and said, “What is it that you were saying?” He said, “I didn’t say anything. Go back to bed.” He goes back… Samuel begins to hear again. One who hears, one who’s been heard of God. Samuel hears the same voice calling him. “Samuel, Samuel.” He goes in. He thinks it’s a man. He thinks it’s the High Priest. He said, “Yessir, what do you want?” He said, “I don’t want anything. But you go back and if you hear that voice again, you say, “Lord, I’m listening.” Young Samuel heard the voice of God… the whisper of God in his heart. And he said, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” Where do you think he got that prayerful heart? That hearing heart that could sense the whispers of God, hear the call and the voice of God. He got it through the prayer and through the performance and through the promise of his mother.

Ultimately Samuel served for forty years as a judge, as a prophet, as a priest. He anointed the king of Israel, the great king of Israel David! He became great… a great man because he was raised in the arms of a great woman! And she stayed good with her promise.

But there’s one final word that I want you to see. Look at verse 19. No doubt, Hannah, even when… Can you imagine dropping that boy off and going home without him, how lonely? I… I can still remember dropping our kids off at college and crying all the way home. She drops her little three year old Samuel… the one she’d called upon the Lord… and leaves him there. And yet she knew that this was her promise and she kept her promise to God.

She stayed involved in his life. Every year and perhaps multiple times during the year they would make the trek… a two-day trek to the place of worship, to the Tabernacle, and 1 Timothy [1 Samuel] 2:19 says something else.

19) And his mother used to make for him a little robe… (a little garment, most likely from the best cloth, the best wool of Elkanah’s sheep, and she made him this little robe and) took it to him every year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Can you imagine every year as she sewing this little garment, she’s also sewing the seeds of faith into the life of her son, offering prayers in faith for her boy. And I can only imagine Samuel, one by one as he’s growing up and the Scripture says he grew up in favor like Jesus… in favor with God and man. And as he grew physically and he would hang a little robe and then a little bigger one up, and then another, and another, and another… year after year, these became reminders of the devotion and the prayers and the love and the service and the sacrifice of his
godly mother. You don’t have to be a sewer of robes to invest in your child’s life something that he will, she will remember forever.

Neal Jeffrey, I want you to come on up here. Neal preached the first service and in closing that service he told a story about a letter that he received from his mother. And it’s like a little robe in the middle of a very distressful time in his life that reminded him of his mother’s love and of God’s faithfulness. Neal, come and tell us about it.

NEAL:

I’ve struggled so much in my life with my speech, my stuttering and you know, my ah… I shared so much about my dad being there all the time. He was my inspiration but my mom was my rock; she was always there. When I’d come home from school sometimes just so… feeling so stupid, so ugly because of my stuttering, not being able to talk, and she was always there; always believed in me. Always, always said, “Neal, God has a plan for your life. He’s going to use this somehow someway. We don’t understand but He’s going to use this.”

Well, I went to Baylor. Of course, I wanted to play football and still struggling with things and we played Arkansas my sophomore year and I’m the starting quarterback. And we get there and a sports writer wrote an article about… It’s up in ah… Fayetteville and he writes an article about Baylor University with three losing seasons and… and the last thing that they needed to lead them out of the wilderness was a stuttering quarterback. And he used the story of the… of the drill sergeant who’s drilling his men near the ocean and then end up drowning in the ocean because he couldn’t say halt! [laughter] I mean… just… pretty ugly. Of course, it’s funny now but it wasn’t funny then. [laughter] I mean it just ah… it’s in the paper. All the guys are reading it. They… they tried to hide it from me but I saw it and just really wounded me. I played a terrible game that day. Threw a bunch of interceptions and we lost the game. And I was so low… as low as I’ve ever been, struggling with me, my life. Just stuttering as a athlete… I want to do this. And just… one of the hardest times in my life!

I get a letter from my mom. Of course, it’s four pages. I can’t read the whole thing. Just… listen to the highlights of what she said.

To my son, the quarterback, (Ha, I love that! [laughter] And she said this): Losing hurts, but losing is there. Losing is a part of life; there’s no marking it out of life. And if you are a competitor as you and your father are, then losing gets deep down side beneath, around everything, and gnaws and gnaws, and hurts and it just never goes away.

Then she tells of all that kind of stuff. Then she says this:

Philippians 4:8 says, “Fix your thoughts… think on these things, that which is true, which is good, which is right. Think about things which are pure, which are lovely. Dwell on the fine, good things and others. And think about all you can praise God for and be glad about it!

Neal, (she writes) along time ago you committed yourself to the Lord Jesus, but to commit your life to Him means having Him use it as He deems best. And His deeming and our scheming for ourselves don’t always jive. That’s because we see very limited results. He knows before reaching in and all the complications that can come from it. It’s very easy to reason, Neal, but if you win the Heisman trophy you can be a tremendous witness for the Lord.

And I, of course, always wanted to win the Heisman trophy but he says… she says:

What if that is not the way the Lord wants to use your witness? Neal, face the fact, you might not win the Heisman, you might not be All American. Neal, you might not be named All Southwest Conference. You might not even still be the starting quarterback at Baylor University. But make no mistake; God is
Then she had this whole paragraph, I know you can’t see, but a paragraph of success where she just lists all the things... when I got saved, and things that God had done... just a pyramid of confidence, she called it, of what God has done in my life. And then she says this, she says:

Two big things now stand out here at present and these things wouldn’t be your choice probably if you had your say, but I think God has had His say. One, God is using your ability to handle the speech hesitation (that’s what she always called my stuttering... speech hesitation)[laughter] He’s using this to witness to thousands, and you know, maybe one day millions as something that the common man can identify with... an imperfection and an imperfection is what everybody has, not the Heisman trophy.

You know the fact is I am here today, standing up as a result of a godly mom who believed in a great God and believed in her son long before her son believed in himself! [applause] That’s why I’m here! And secondly, she says this:

And today, I know it’s a struggle because you made mistakes and you’re struggling, but you know what, God is using you and the mistakes that you made as a strong message to overcome as a tool to reach again maybe millions with the motivation to come out when failures come, and be great the next time around.

To be a name to honor teams is great but it’s not the most important thing. Sports memories are short (she says). The kind of witness you have lasts forever. [extended applause] Think (she says) think on these things and enjoy it.

You know what this is? You know what this is? This is a robe my mom gave me, and you know, it reminds me how great my mom’s faith was in a great God! And that’s the man I want to be... [extended applause] a man who lives that faith as a result of a legacy left by my mom! That’s the point!

Just remain standing for just a moment. Here’s the point. So what do we do? We commit our lives to Christ. Moms, commit your life... Do you want to shape another life? You gotta be shaped by Jesus. Men, you ... we need to do a better job loving our wives! Some women... some moms are struggling and the problem is their husband is not the man God wants him to be. And some of us need to step into place.

You know what else you need to do? Hey, we need to be committed to the church of Jesus Christ. Hannah dedicated her son and her family to the Lord. Men, women, we need to dedicate our lives to the church of Jesus Christ and our family, so our kids are exposed to the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We need to let our kids hear our faith, see our faith, hear us pray, watch us serve Jesus Christ! We need to get revival.

Would you bow your heads for a moment? We’re going to have a time of invitation. If God’s spoken to you through this great message of our pastor, if there’s a mom here today who..., you need to recommit yourself to Jesus Christ and be that mom, a dad. If you’ve never trusted Christ, you know what? The most glorious thing in all of life is knowing Jesus as Savior and Lord. You come in just a moment. We would love to just let you know how you can know Jesus. He died for you. He came, lived a perfect life, He died for you and your sins on the cross. You can experience life everlasting with Him if you’ll just come.

Let us just share with you about knowing about Jesus. You know some of us today is the day. We need play our lives into the church of Jesus Christ. You come. If you need a church home, you come right now. Single man, you come; or a couple, you come; family... Dads, lead the way and you come. If you just need to pray, our ministers are going to be here at the front. They’re going to be up in the balcony.
The challenge is Lord, help me live in such a way my life ends up being a robe long after I’m gone in the lives of my children as a legacy of faith.

Lord, bless these moments… these brief moments. God speak,[music begins] let us respond. And God, some of us need to publicly respond and come forward and make a commitment to Christ, to His church, be who He called us to be. God, you say what You need to say. Lord, help us respond and do what you’ve asked us to do. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

We’re going to sing. You’ve heard the invitation. God’s spoken. I want you to come right now as we sing. God speaks. Come on.