

GOD'S HEARTCRY FOR A MAN OF GOD!

I Samuel 1:1-2: 8 – Pastor Richard P. Carlson

Jeremy, the evening of this ordination service has arrived. I have been moved by the Spirit of God to bring some thoughts to you from the heart cry of Hannah, Samuel's mother. I believe her thoughts are the heart-cry of God tonight as we come to lay hands on you in ordination. God has a special call on you, as He did upon Samuel. God gives us a glimpse of His own heart as He has called you. The background of Hannah's prayer that I want us to look at began in the heart of a woman who loved God, but Hannah was barren. As I come to your ordination, Jeremy, I thank God for His calling of you, a call that has already been tested for a couple years at the First Baptist Church here in Rock Springs. You taught the youth there every book of the Bible. You spent hundreds of hours helping those youth see how relevant the Bible is and will always be for their lives.

This calling of Samuel the prophet began in the soul and spirit of a woman who might well have passed through life without clasping to her bosom the child of her dreams. As I think of Hannah, I remember when we had three daughters and God made Jinny a Hannah. I am so glad, I joined her in her desperate desire for more children. I cannot imagine life without the last two more daughters and our two sons. Men, I call on you to hear the heart-cry of God Almighty in the heart cries of your wife for children or more children. God yearns for a Godly offspring as He calls for the same in Malachi 2: 15.

Tonight, I am preaching directly to you, Jeremy, about the heart-cry of God that I hear in the prayer and praise of Hannah, this crushed woman whose tears and cries were misread by Eli as cries of a drunken woman. In the cries of desperation as well as in the praise of Hannah upon giving her son to the Lord, I find your ordination message. What are the heart cries of God for you and your future, Jeremy, as you go forward, after the laying on of hands tonight as an ordained minister of the Gospel? I see five heart cries that I dedicate to you for your future ministry. God would say to you, Jeremy,

I CALLED YOU FOR THIS WORK BEFORE YOU WERE BORN. (I.)

Notice our text in I Samuel 1: 11. "And Hannah vowed a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give to Your maidservant a son, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." This heart cry of Hannah also brings to my heart the words of God to Jeremiah when God called him as a prophet.

Jeremiah 1: 4-8 is so beautiful. I dedicate God's message to Jeremiah to you as well, Jeremy. "Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, And before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations. Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, I am only a youth, for to all whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of them, For I am with you to deliver you," declares the Lord." Jeremy, long before you felt or heard God calling you to preach, and teach and pastor and work with young people, He called you. Long before we have come to ordain you tonight, God ordained you. God already from His choice of you and His call in you, from before the foundation of the world, set you apart as His own to use you for his glory.

Jeremy, after six years in the pastoral ministry, on December 9, 1973, I was ordained to the Gospel ministry in the Evangelical Free Church of Bloomington-Normal, Illinois." I had one special song sung for me by my mother's youngest brother, my Uncle Daralyn. I wanted him to sing a song by Audrey Mieir entitled, "To Be Used of God." Before I go any further in this message, I want to sing about God's heart-cry for me, that I dedicate and pass along for you to take up as well. "I've a yearning in my heart that cannot be denied; it's a longing that has never yet been satisfied. I want the world to know the One who loves them so, like a flame, it's burning deep inside.(Chorus) To be used of God to sing, to speak, to pray, to be used of God to show someone the way. I long so much to feel the touch of His consuming fire. To be used of God is my desire. When I think about the shortness of my earthly years, I remember all the wasted days, the wasted tears. I long to preach the Word to those who've never heard of the One who can dispel all fears. Look with me at a second heart-cry from God: Chorus: Jeremy, God has a second heart-cry:

I CALL ON YOU TO FULFILL YOUR VOW BY THE POWER OF MY SPIRIT. (II.) Notice I Samuel 1: 21-26. What woman with common sense and in her right mind, would take a weaned child and give him to a priest who can't even discern between a woman in prayer and a drunk woman? Jeremy, I want to ask God to use the words of Oswald Chambers for a moment tonight, to be God's voice to you. Let me read these words. I believe God is also saying, "Jeremy Jack Lui, I know I can count on you to follow Me, and not your common sense. I know I can count on you not to lean on your own understanding. I know I can count on you not to compare yourself with others, as that is not wise. I know I can count on you to use the

schooling I have given you in your mentoring at this church to prepare you for the work to which I have called you. I know you will be humble and not touch My glory. I know you will fulfill the vows you take today as you are ordained. There is a third heart's cry of God:

I CALL YOU TO BE DEDICATED TO ME AS LONG AS YOU LIVE.

(III.) Notice I Samuel 1: 27-28. Dr. W. G. Blaikie, professor of Edinburgh College, in 1903 wrote his mighty commentary on Samuel. He wrote here on Hannah's dedication, these strong words. "What a rebuke to those parents that keep back their children from God's service, that will not part with their sons to be missionaries, that look on the ministry of the Gospel as but a poor occupation! What a rebuke, too, to many Christian men and women who are so unwilling to commit themselves openly to any form of Christian service, -unwilling to be identified with...God's call to serve."

One of the interesting side notes of Hannah's words of dedicating Samuel are the six words that close out chapter one. "And he—that's Samuel, worshipped the Lord there, that is, in Shiloh at the house of the Lord." Hannah had home-schooled Samuel. He knew how to worship the Lord as he was being given to God and his mother was leaving him behind—in that day, a two-day long journey—30-35 miles away to the southwest. There is no mention of Samuel fussing as he was left behind. He had been called to serve the Lord, and as a little boy just weaned, he worshipped the Lord, dedicating himself to the Lord all his life. When Samuel was old, he was still at it, dedicated to the Lord. Turn with me to I Samuel 12: 19-25. Notice that when you are dedicated, ordained, Jeremy, you are earnest to implore God's people to be faithful to God. Notice that when you are dedicated and ordained of God, you live a life of prayer and intercession for God's people. Notice, that a dedicated, ordained man of God knows how to warn God's people. God wants you to be dedicated to this call He is ordaining you to today, as long as you live. 4thly, God's heart cry to you, Jeremy, is:

I CALL YOU TO PROCLAIM WHO I AM. (IV.) Notice, in I Samuel 2:

1-3. Who is the Lord? Pick out the titles of God. Verse 1—The Lord in whom our heart exults, the One who exalts our horn." To put it plainly, Jeremy, any reflected majesty or strength we have, comes from the Lord. Notice in verse 1, God is the Savior in whom we rejoice—I rejoice in Your salvation. Now let me read you this exultation of Hannah's. (Read it) I love the words of verse 2—that spur so many songs. "There Is None holy like the Lord. There is no rock like our God." I think of those words, "Who is like the Lord, there is no one. As the chorus goes, "Who is like the Lord, there is

no one, Who is like the Lord, He is strong and mighty, who is like the Lord, He is worthy, Stand up and give Him the praise.” Jeremy, if all your messages were nothing more than delighting in proclaiming who God is, you would bless His Name. 5thly, the last heart-cry God has for me to share with you is:

I CALL YOU TO LIFT THE NEEDY FROM THE ASH HEAP TO INHERIT THE THRONE OF GLORY. (V.)

Let me read to you I Samuel 2: 8, “He raises up the poor out from the dust, he lifts up the needy or the beggar from the ash heap or the dunghill, to make them sit with princes, and inherit a seat of honor; for the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them He has set the world.” Jeremy, don’t ever be ashamed to minister to the poor and the oppressed, to those who are begging, to those who have been drinking, to those who are addicted, to those who are pregnant out of wedlock, to those who are living together in fornication, to those who are lesbians and homosexuals, to those who are prisoners, to those who are up and outers as well as those who are down and outers. God specializes in transformation—He made us all out of the dust, and He delights to raise men and women out of the dust. God lifts up the suicidal in the hospital and he lifts up convicted felons in prison from the dung heap. People that the world might consign to a manure spreader to be spread on the land for fertilizer, God sets them among princes. God has a redemption plan for those in the ash heaps, life’s Cinderellas, life’s imprisoned in the Les Miserables of life—His plan is to bring them all to inherit the throne of glory.

Don’t forget your mission, your call—as God has called you to shepherd those who are lost like sheep without a shepherd. He has called you to raise up the lost and the lonely, the sick and the dying, the hopeless and the homeless, the sinners and the fallen saints, and the Pharisees from the poverty of pride, to God’s freedom and the riches of love in Christ Jesus, from dust to delight in the Lord, from ashes to “all things become new.” II Cor. 5: 17—must be ever on your lips, Jeremy. “If anyone be in Christ, he is a new creature, the old things are passed away. All things have become new.” Don’t forget your mission to lift, not to condemn. Don’t ever proudly push a man or a woman deeper into the muck by putting them down, when those are the very ones whom God wants you to be lifting. Don’t be ashamed of your call.

I close this charge to you with Jude 22-25. “Have mercy on those who doubt, save others, by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted and stained by the flesh. Now to

Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only wise God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Jeremy, receive God’s heart cry this evening. God’s cry to you is, “I called you for this work before you were born. I call on you to fulfill your vow by the power of My Spirit. I call you to be dedicated to Me as-long as you live. I call you to proclaim who I am. I call you to lift the needy from the ash heap--to inherit the throne of glory. I charge you Jeremy now to receive from Rock Springs Evangelical Free Church and our elders and men of God on your council, the laying on of hands. I am only calling one man to pray, a man of prayer—one of our beloved pastors, Pastor Larry. After Pastor Larry prays, you may respond for a few moments, Jeremy, and then I am asking Pastor Will to give our benediction.