**Finding Grace**

**Grace for the Family**

**A Wife and Mother of Grace**

**Philippians 2:14-16** - *Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life…*

3 characteristics of a mother who shines her light well

**I. A Woman of Grace Selects Her King Wisely**

**Judges 21:25** - *In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

A. In contrast to those around her

1. Like the sons of Israel who “again did evil in the sight of the Lord” – Judges 13:1

2. Like people unwilling to repent and cry out to God

3. Like people who had no apparent desire for the salvation of the Lord

**Judges 15:11** - *Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam and said to Samson, “Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?”*

**Judges 13:2** - *…and his wife was barren and had borne no children.*

**Judges 13:3** - *Then the angel of the Lord appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold now, you are barren and have borne no children…”*

B. In the context of heartache and disappointment

**II. A Woman of Grace Raises Her Children Based on What is Right in God’s Eyes**

A. Because she recognizes her children are a gift from the Lord

**Judges 13:3** - *…but you shall conceive and give birth to a son.*

**Judges 13:5** - *For behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son…*

**Judges 13:7** - *But he said to me, “Behold, you shall conceive and give birth to a son…”*

**Psalm 127:3** - *Behold, children are* *a gift of the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward.*

B. Because she believes God’s way is best for her children

**1 John 2:3** - *By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.*

C. Because she longs to see God’s purpose fulfilled

**Judges 13:5** - *…and he shall begin to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.*

“This text is the hermeneutical star that must go before us as we work through the Samson materials.” (Such a Great Salvation, Dale Ralph Davis, p. 157)

D. Even when her children don’t always immediately respond

**III. A Woman of Grace Possesses Reverence and Trust**

**Judges 13:20** - *…When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.*

A. She rightly feared the Lord

B. She also joyfully trusted Him

**Judges 13:23** - *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 let us hear things like this at this time.”*

C. Ultimately pointing to those who would trust in God’s perfect Savior

**Luke 1:46-50** - *…My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; for behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; and holy is His name. And his mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him.*