

## Manoah in March Sermon

Preached 3/27/22, Cloverdale Baptist Church

### Judges 13

**<sup>2</sup> And there was a certain man of Zorah, of the family of the Danites, whose name was Manoah; and his wife was barren, and bare not. <sup>3</sup> And the angel of the LORD appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son.**

1. Manoah had a wife that couldn't produce children. Something was empty and missing in her life and their relationship.
2. Angel shows up with good news; you are barren now, but something you are missing will come out of you. What you lack now, God is about to bless you with. That's good news. Didn't say she had it, pointed out her current condition (behold or look, you ain't got it together right now, but you're about to have what you don't have right now).
  - a. I love the application here. We see your current condition and it is not good "but", your barren condition doesn't prohibit or stop you from being fruitful.
  - b. Her condition didn't disqualify her to receive what she was never able to enjoy.
  - c. God has a "but" which turns around your current condition and lines you up for His best.
  - d. He could have chosen any other woman or family that was already proven or successful but instead He chooses Manoah and his wife and their empty and bleak condition. Why?

**<sup>4</sup> Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: <sup>5</sup> For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.**

3. Now therefore....because of this message, needed instructions for how to take care of what God was putting inside of her so that it would come out correct. There is an application – the Bible has instructions for how you should prepare for and protect your future.
  - a. This takes faith to prepare for something you can't see yet. I don't take in anything that will damage His promises upon my life. What He puts in me is coming out straight by faith.
  - b. Note: What God put in you can be adversely impacted by your actions. This is true in a natural birth, and true in a spiritual birth.

**<sup>6</sup> Then the woman came and told her husband, saying, A man of God came unto me, and his countenance was like the countenance of an angel of God, very terrible: but I asked him not whence he was, neither told he me his name: <sup>7</sup> But he said unto me, Behold, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and now drink no wine nor strong drink, neither eat any unclean thing: for the child shall be a Nazarite to God from the womb to the day of his death. <sup>8</sup> Then Manoah intreated the LORD, and said, O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born. <sup>9</sup> And God hearkened to the voice of Manoah; and the angel of God came again unto the woman as she sat in the field: but Manoah her husband was not with her. <sup>10</sup> And the woman made haste, and ran, and shewed her husband, and said unto him, Behold, the man hath appeared unto me, that came unto me the other day. <sup>11</sup> And Manoah arose, and went after his wife, and came to the man, and said unto him, Art thou the man that spakest unto the woman? And he said, I am.**

4. When we hear from God, we should share the good news with somebody who needs to hear it.

**<sup>15</sup> And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, I pray thee, let us detain thee, until we shall have made ready a kid for thee. <sup>16</sup> And the angel of the LORD said unto Manoah, Though thou detain me, I will not eat of thy bread: and if thou wilt offer a burnt offering, <sup>17</sup> And Manoah said unto the angel of the LORD, What is thy name, that when thy sayings come to pass we may do thee honour? <sup>18</sup> And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?**

5. Manoah wants to detain the Angel....wants him to hang out with them a little longer. Offers a meal and sacrifice. He thinks that offering a sacrifice and a meal will detain the servant of God. Does it work? Yes! What does that tell you about God?

6. Angel says, sure....but specifies what he wants to do for him must be offered to the Lord.

- Application:** Whatever we do and sacrifice for others must be for the Lord and on His behalf.
- Excellent warning for us today.** I am sure there has been a time or two when I made a sacrifice or did something for someone else but the motivation for my offering may not have been on behalf of the Lord or even with Him in mind.
- This also is an example that God celebrates and honors fellowship and communion.

7. Doesn't tell him his name and there are some things Manoah didn't need to know to enter into this season of promise. You have what you need to know.

- Secret = wonderful, Isa 9:6. Wonderful or incomprehensible.
- So what the Angel really was telling Manoah is all you really need to know is He is wonderful and perform wonders in your life.

**<sup>19</sup> So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. <sup>20</sup> For it came to**

**pass, when the flame went up toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground.**

8. When the flame went up to the Lord, the Angel goes up in the sacrifice.
  - a. God can also take our humble sacrifice and do wondrously with it.
  - b. **Application** – after you have done your part and presented the sacrifice, God will do the rest

I think this is one of the great messages from this story. When we follow the proper steps in order and present our sacrifice (ourselves) to God, we only to have faith and sit back and watch God do wonders with our offering. We see this happen with the lad who sacrificed his lunch and Jesus wondrously feed a multitude with it.

**<sup>21</sup> But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. <sup>22</sup> And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. <sup>23</sup> But his wife said unto him, If the LORD were pleased to kill us, he would not have received a burnt offering and a meat offering at our hands, neither would he have shewed us all these things, nor would as at this time have told us such things as these.**

9. Angel is gone. But they have what they need. Instructions for how to live and a promise. Christ has ascended, but he left us with a word, a promise, and instructions.
10. Manoah scared because common thought was a person would die if they saw God or an Angel. Exodus 33:20.
11. Powerful word from his wife. If it would please God to take them out and kill them then why would He have:
  - a. Accepted your offering
  - b. Would He have bothered to show us these good things to come
  - c. Then why do we fear that God won't keep us. God would not have done what He's done for us if He meant to destroy us.
  - d. I'm encouraged because I'm standing on the promises of God. He who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it.

His promise is on the way....we need merely to obey the instructions by faith.

So how can we use this story today; if we do what Manoah did, can we get the same results? I believe so. I believe we can see these results in our lives and perhaps in this church.

- God still looks for the small, the humble, the broken. He asks us to look at our current situation; see if we qualify for a blessing and His attention.

- He tells them He can work a miracle and turn things around. God gives us a word and good news and hope that he can turn this situation around.
- God tells them what they need to do to get ready to receive this blessing. We need to understand how to prepare through His word so this blessing comes out straight.
- Even though he didn't see it yet, by faith, Manoah lays his sacrifice before the Lord. God takes it and does wonderfully with it. When we bring our sacrifice to God, He will perform wonders.
- Even though Manoah sees God do a wonderful thing; he still has fear that he won't be successful. But his wife encourages him and us today by pointing out:
  - If God was going to let us fail, He would not have accepted our sacrifice.
  - If God wanted us to fail, He would not have showed us such wonderful things.
  - If God wanted us to fail, He would not have revealed this news of hope for a better day.

If He did it for Manoah, I think God still can and wants to do the same thing for us. If we honestly behold our current situation and humbly seek Him; He will begin to turn things around. Just follow Manoah's steps.