



Good morning students of the word,

1 Samuel 1:11-14 "Then she (Hannah) made a vow and said, look on the affliction of your maidservant and remember me, and not forget your maidservant, but will give your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head. **v:12** And it happened, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli watched her mouth. **v:13** Now Hannah spoke in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli thought she was drunk. **v:14** So Eli said to her, How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!"

Did you know that hurt is one of Satan's greatest weapons against the believer?

This encounter between Eli the Priest of Shiloh and Hannah the mother of Samuel, one of Israel's greatest Priest, could have gone bad quickly.

Two Sunday's ago I said *"we find ourselves comparing our flaws to another person's fruit." Not ever considering what that person endured to produce that fruit."*

Hannah, the mother of Samuel the Priest, who ministered during the time of the Israel's early nation stage, was Priest and Prophet under King Saul; (the first of human king of Israel). It was Samuel who would also anoint Israel's greatest King, David.

Hannah was barren. She could not conceive a child, while Peninnah, her husband Elkanah's concubine, had children, (1 Sam. 1:2).

So Hannah decided to go to the Temple in Shiloh and pray. Eli the Priest at Shiloh saw Hannah supplicating in the Temple and thought she was drunk.

Imagine Hannah's feelings. She was already hurt, being unable to conceive. She goes to the one place where she knew she would be understood, the Temple, (or Church). Only to be hurt again; this time by the Priest of God. A false accusation of drunkenness.

Watch what Hannah does.

Hannah explained to Eli that she was not drunk, but in anguish of soul because she was barren.

Hannah didn't get angry because Eli misdiagnosed her situation. She even vowed to

give her child to God if she conceived.

And so she did.

You see church, to Hannah, Eli was still the Priest of Shiloh, (Priest of God); which meant that Hannah knew Eli represented God's order.

And yes, even though Eli mistakenly took Hannah's praying for drunkenness, Hannah was not mistaken about Eli being God's Priest; even if Eli was mistaken about her character.

Hannah didn't leave the Temple; in fact, Hannah gave what she most wanted to Eli the Priest. Once Hannah conceived, she gave young Samuel to Eli to raise in the Temple.

She would not allow Eli's error, to alter young Samuel's destiny.

Hannah learned the secret of a valued life: a life given to God. That there will always be human obstacles along the way.

Don't let anyone, or anything interfere with your assignment from God. Don't let anyone or anything come between you and who God has assigned to prepare you.

Elkanah and Hannah could have left for another Temple, but I don't know if the Priest there would have known to have young Samuel sleep next to the Ark of God.

Remember, it was Eli who discerned that it was God calling Samuel. Samuel kept coming into Eli's room, waking him up and asking what he wanted. But it was not Eli calling the boy, it was God. Eli instructed Samuel, the next time, simply respond; "speak Lord, for your servant hears." (1 Sam. 3:10)

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