



Daily Reflections

January 9, 2018

Scripture

1 Samuel 1: 9-20

Hannah rose after a meal at Shiloh,
and presented herself before the LORD;
at the time, Eli the priest was sitting on a chair
near the doorpost of the LORD's temple.
In her bitterness she prayed to the LORD, weeping copiously,
and she made a vow, promising: "O LORD of hosts,
if you look with pity on the misery of your handmaid,
if you remember me and do not forget me,
if you give your handmaid a male child,
I will give him to the LORD for as long as he lives;
neither wine nor liquor shall he drink,
and no razor shall ever touch his head."
As she remained long at prayer before the LORD,
Eli watched her mouth, for Hannah was praying silently;
though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard.
Eli, thinking her drunk, said to her,
"How long will you make a drunken show of yourself?
Sober up from your wine!"
"It isn't that, my lord," Hannah answered.
"I am an unhappy woman.
I have had neither wine nor liquor;
I was only pouring out my troubles to the LORD.
Do not think your handmaid a ne'er-do-well;

my prayer has been prompted by my deep sorrow and misery."
Eli said, "Go in peace,
and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him."
She replied, "Think kindly of your maidservant," and left.
She went to her quarters, ate and drank with her husband,
and no longer appeared downcast.
Early the next morning they worshiped before the LORD,
and then returned to their home in Ramah.
When Elkanah had relations with his wife Hannah,
the LORD remembered her.
She conceived, and at the end of her term bore a son
whom she called Samuel, since she had asked the LORD for him.

Our Scripture Reflection

Hannah serves as a heartbreaking example of a humble and lowly woman who is in dire need. And what does she do during her time of need? What people who trust the Lord always do: She humbly pours her heart out to the Lord and her desperate prayer is answered in time far beyond her dreams. God is always faithful and good to those who put their trust in Him.

Food for your Journey

The dynamic discovery of AA founder Bill Wilson is this: Two broken people helping each other is more effective than a whole person helping a broken one. When I, in my brokenness, help another with the same problem, I become better equipped to cope. In that same way, the purpose of Christian fellowship is to give us strength in maintaining our spirituality, as iron sharpens iron (Proverbs 27:17). SBNRs (people who say they are "Spiritual but not Religious") deny themselves this benefit.

--Rev. Jonathan McCleery

A Prayer from the Heart

Gracious and Merciful Father, You always listen to my prayers. You are faithful and true at all times. Pour forth Your Grace upon me so that I may do Your good work this day. Amen