

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 211 Hannah and Eli



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSES:** 1 Samuel 1:12-17

As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, 'How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine.' 'Not so, my lord,' Hannah replied, 'I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.' Eli answered, 'Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** James 5:13a; Matthew 7:1-5; Matthew 5:7

### What does the Bible passage tell us?

There are several things to learn from this story of Hannah who, as we read in verses 10-11, had been praying that God would give her a son. One is that we should always take our problems, hurts and disappointments to God in prayer and He will listen to us.

Another is not to judge people. Eli assumed that Hannah was drunk and he spoke strictly to her. Hannah replied that she was not drunk but was pouring out her heart to the Lord. And she asked Eli not to misjudge her. He immediately recognised the truth she spoke and prayed that God would give her what she was asking for. We learn in verse 18 that his words gave Hannah peace.

How often do we judge other people or situations without knowing the background to their stories? I suspect we all do it often. Jesus tells us not to think the worst of people, even when we think that they are doing something wrong; it may be that we are in the wrong. In Hannah's case, she was doing exactly the right thing – taking her deep anguish to God.

So, let us remember these two important things from today's passage – to take our worries to God in prayer and not to think the worst of other people but to show them kindness. Perhaps, if you read this passage again, you will also find other lessons to learn.

### Reflection

- Look back on your life and see when you have called out to God with your problems and hurts; how did He help you? Remember that help may not have come in the way you expected, but perhaps He has given you peace.
- Have you ever assumed something bad about someone and then found out that your assumption was totally wrong and you have misjudged them? Try not to do this in future, but ask God to bless them.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

