



Monday, November 12, 2012

**READ-** The Old Testament: | Samuel 1:4-20

Hannah was deeply troubled because she could not have a child and took her sorrow directly to God in a day and time when it was believed that petitions must be made through a priest and woman were certainly not worthy to talk to God directly.

**REFLECT-**

- The priest Eli misinterprets Hannah's emotional pleadings at the temple of the Lord and accuses her of drunkenness. However, her heartfelt reply to him causes him to pray to God on her behalf. Jesus encouraged us to take our needs directly to God, yet like Hannah, we are to honor God from our blessings in return.

**PRAY-**

Lord, I thank you that we can freely express our every need, concern, joy, burden and heartache to you, knowing that you will care for us. Amen.

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

**READ-** The Psalter: Psalm 113

This hymn of praise used at the Passover meal may have been sung by Jesus and his disciples. The psalm expresses God's desire for justice and compassion for the poor and disadvantaged, including those – like Hannah – who want children, but cannot conceive.

**REFLECT-**

- We are called to bless God at all times – in the good times and the hard times of our lives and to be instruments of God's care and compassion for those who are hurting or in need. What a blessing it is today that those who want children can have them through adoption! Think of all those you know who have received this great blessing and give thanks.

**PRAY-**

Lord, thank you for all the ways you bless us and help me to be blessing to others in the way I live my life today. Amen.

Wednesday, November 14, 2012

**READ-** The Epistle: Hebrews 10:11-25

The writer of Hebrews again emphasizes the absolute completeness of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for all humankind for all time – sacrifices by priests are no longer needed or useful. It is done. Our sins are forgiven and we are put right with God if we only claim that gift and live in ways that honor God's gift to us.

**REFLECT-**

- Verse 14 says that Jesus "perfected for all time" the forgiveness of sins for those who call upon his name and place their whole faith in him. John Wesley often spoke of Christians "going on to perfection", which does not mean never making a mistake or committing a sin again, but accepting what Christ has done for us.

**PRAY-**

Father, we are grateful for Jesus' sacrifice for us so that we may receive mercy without merit of our own. Help us to live faithfully. Amen.

Thursday, November 15, 2012

**READ-** The Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

Jesus tried to prepare his disciples for the persecution and hardship they would face after his death and resurrection. Here he warns them that the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed (hard for them to imagine at the time) and that there would be many false teachers claiming to be the Messiah. He encouraged them to stand firm and believe in him.

**REFLECT-**

- Some two thousand years after Christ, we are still waiting for his return. Some try to interpret current events as signs of the end time, but Jesus told us no one knows but God. We must stay focused on him as our Savior, even in the midst of much evil and turmoil in the world around us.

**PRAY-**

O God, sometimes we are overwhelmed by all the hardship, pain and outright evil in the world and feel powerless to do anything. We pray for your Kingdom to come, your will to be done. Amen.

Friday, November 16, 2012

**ACT-**

**Focus Verse:** Hebrews 10:24-25

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds... encouraging one another...

This passage encourages us to "provoke one another to love and good deeds". Is there someone you need to encourage in their Christian walk today? Is there someone you need to invite to be part of your Sunday School class or to serve in one of the ministries of the church alongside you? There may be someone you have invited to church before, but they've been reluctant. What more might you do to make it easier for them? Pick them up or invite them to lunch afterwards? Take action today to "provoke" someone "to love and good deeds".