

February 21, 2010

But I Am Not Drunk!!

Elkanah had two wives – Hannah and Peninnah. It would seem that Elkanah loved Hannah more than Peninnah. 1Sam.1:5 says Elkanah “loved Hannah, but the Lord had closed her womb.” Hannah’s barrenness was no accident of nature. The Lord had deliberately closed her womb. Peninnah, on the other hand, had children.

More than anything else in this world, Hannah wanted to bear children for her husband. This desire for children is rooted in creation. In Gen.1:28 we read that God blessed the first couple and “God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth...”” Hannah’s desire for children was compounded by the fact that Peninnah “would provoke her bitterly.” (1Sam.1:6).

Hannah knew that the resolution to her problem was the Lord. So, “greatly distressed, [she] prayed to the Lord and wept bitterly.” The intensity of her praying was so great, (“I have poured out my soul before the Lord”), Eli thought she was drunk. (vss.12-15). Hannah’s prayer was an expression of her great grief over her barrenness. Hannah’s bitterness of soul was not an expression of bitterness against the Lord. We know this for a fact because in vs.11 her prayer is directed to the Lord. In her prayer she recognized that only the Lord could give her children and ultimately her children belongs to the Lord. So she prayed to the Lord, give me a son and I will give him back to you.

In Jn.15:16 Jesus said, “You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit...” The new creation in Christ has the same mandate – be fruitful and multiply; bear fruit. The fruit here is the conversion of others to Christ. Are you a fruitful Christian or are you a barren Christian? If you are a fruitful Christian, how fruitful are you? Are you satisfied with winning

one to Christ and thus removing the shame of your barrenness? If you are spiritually barren, what are you doing about it? With great distress are you weeping and pouring out your soul to the Lord who alone can make you fruitful for His glory? Consider Hannah as you meditate on the Lord’s command in Jn.15:16.