

ELI & DISCERNMENT 101

1 Samuel 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD. **1 Samuel 1:10** And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. **1 Samuel 1:11** And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. **1 Samuel 1:12** And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. **1 Samuel 1:13** Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. **1 Samuel 1:14** And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. **1 Samuel 1:15** And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. **1 Samuel 1:16** Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. **1 Samuel 1:17** Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

2 similar events / phenomena separated by 5-10 years:

Heidi:

Me:

Now for the story:

1. Hannah praying

1 Samuel 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

1 Samuel 1:10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

1 Samuel 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

Praying from the heart

Praying but not out loud

Praying under her breath → mumbling

Praying for a son & vowing

2. Eli observing

1 Samuel 1:9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

1 Samuel 1:12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, **that Eli marked her mouth.**

How could he not?

3. Eli evaluating

1 Samuel 1:12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, **that Eli marked her mouth.**

1 Samuel 1:13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: **therefore Eli thought** she had been drunken.

1 Samuel 1:14 And Eli **said** unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? **put away** thy wine from thee.

This is where discernment lives or dies! This is discernment 101

Proverbs 26:2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, **So the curse causeless shall not come.**

Proverbs 30:33 **Surely** the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, **And** the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: **So** the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

Luke 1:28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. **Luke 1:29** And when she saw him, **she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.** **Luke 1:30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. **Luke 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luke 1:34 Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?**

4. Hannah explaining &/ defending

1 Samuel 1:15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Effect: praying under her breath

Cause:

NOT drunkenness!

Causes \neq symptoms

Causes are multiple

Causes can be very difficult to discern AND sometimes impossible

Evaluation is always dangerous

Evaluation must be deliberate

What causes a person to fall asleep at the wrong time & place?

Projection:

5. Eli reconsidering

1 Samuel 1:17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

1 Samuel 1:24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. **1 Samuel 1:25** And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli. **1 Samuel 1:26** And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. **1 Samuel 1:27** For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

1 Samuel 2:20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home. **1 Samuel 2:21** And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

No one is good at discernment

Everyone makes wrong judgments

What is maturity?

- Being wrong
- Acknowledging it
- Accepting it
- Correcting it