

WHEN YOU ARE MISJUDGED OR FALSELY ACCUSED, REMEMBER 1 SAMUEL 1  
WHEN YOU ARE MISJUDGED OR FALSELY ACCUSED, REMEMBER 1 SAMUEL 1:12-14

"And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? Put away thy wine from thee."

It is a terrible thing to be misjudged and condemned, especially when the criticism comes from a person who should know better. During moments of anguish the soul may become hurt, annoyed and retaliatory - or miraculously tolerant and patient. Let it be admitted, it is difficult to remain serene when unkind words undermine one's influence for God. The Bible supplies numerous examples of people who remained calm under fire.

#### Hannah Who Interceded

The woman was desperate. She had no child, and according to the belief of her culture, her barrenness was considered to be a curse from God. To make matters worse, her husband's second wife "provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb" (1 Sam 1:6-7).

Hannah was filled with sadness when she prayed silently before the altar at Shiloh. "She spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard, therefore Eli thought she had been drunken." The words spoken by the high priest were humiliating, but Hannah remained calm. Had she denounced the priest, she might have lost the greatest blessing of her

life.

#### David Who Intervened

Poor David! He was perplexed. He was being accused of all kinds of indiscretions and was being hunted as "a partridge in the mountains" (1 Sam. 26:20). Then suddenly it seemed his troubles were ending; Saul, who had misjudged and vilified him, lay at his feet. "Then said Abishai to David, God hath delivered thine enemy into thine hand this day; now therefore let me smite him, I pray thee, with the spear even to the earth at once, and I will not smite him the second time. And David said to Abishai, Destroy him not: for who can stretch forth his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" (1 Sam. 26:8-9).

If David had acted impetuously, he would have made one of his

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greatest mistakes. He subdued his anger, and any desire for revenge or self-justification was suppressed. Perhaps he listened to God who said, "To me belongeth vengeance, and recompense" (Deut. 32:35).

#### The Savior Who Instructed

The Sermon on the Mount was the greatest message ever delivered to a congregation. The hillside audience was enthralled and yet amazed by the words of Jesus the Carpenter. His ideas were different from anything they had ever heard. His highways to blessing ran through unexplored territory. The people had been taught to resist enemies, and in a corrupt world they knew how to survive. Jesus introduced a new life - style, and they were not sure whether they could accept it.

They listened as the Teacher said, "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against

you

falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven" (Matt 5:11-12).

The Lord not only recommended these virtues, He practiced what He preached. Of Him it was said, "Who, when he was reviled, reviled not

WHEN YOU ARE MISJUDGED OR FALSELY ACCUSED, REMEMBER 1 SAMUEL 1 again; when he suffered, he threaten not: but committed herself to him that judgeth righteously" (1 Peter 2:23). It should never be forgotten

that

when God raised the Lord and exalted him to the right hand of the Majesty on high, the Savior had more than demonstrated His worthiness for that honor. His amazing teaching must be the inspiration of the church, and His deeds the example for every Christian.

Paul Who Imitated

The church at Corinth was composed of a cosmopolitan people who did not live together peacefully. Although Paul founded and established the church, he was not always proud of his converts. His message to them was self-explanatory. "Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we entreat; we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day. I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore, I beseech you, be ye followers of me" (1 Cor. 4:12-16).

Paul's advice was obvious. When Christians are attacked by unkind critics, they should ascertain if there was truth in the statements; if not, they should rejoice. Their attitude would guarantee excellent company.

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