

Reflection Tuesday Week 1 – 2022

The name Samuel has two possible meanings: *The Name of God* or *God heard*. Either way the name could mean *Gift of God* since Hannah certainly saw it that way. God had taken away her embarrassment and she certainly saw Samuel as a gift. All life is a gift of God which this story makes very clear. It also makes clear that we do not possess people. Mary would eventually hand over her child, Jesus, to God but raised, nurtured and cared for him through his early life like all good mothers.

Jesus' desire to free people from the evil that had entrapped them was instilled in him by Mary and Joseph who had done the same for him – saving him from Herod and shielding him from harm. Jesus spoke with authority not only in the way that evil spirits obeyed him but in the way that people recognised the truth and power behind what he said. A truth that spoke of love, goodness and compassion, and a power that was uplifting, making his listeners feel valued and with honour and respect.

This could be Hannah's Poem:

The Word of God (anon)

I lie here broken and hurting,
crying out and wanting to scream,
battered and bruised, guilty and frightened,
hoping it's all been a dream.

I cry out to God in frustration,
I lay it all, open and bare.
The fear and the pain, feelings and failings,
sent up to God in a prayer.

Then drawn to the word of the Lord,
I find it in black and white.
The words of the psalms expressing my heart,
filling my darkness with light.

I still feel the pain and the sorrow,
I still find it hard to cope,
but God is good, faithful and true.
his *word* gives me comfort and hope.

Prison might just be one word to you... But to some people, it's a long sentence.

A boy never uttered a single word growing up until aged 5. Then, while sitting at breakfast, he looked up and said very clearly '*The toast is burnt*'... The family were amazed and said '*You can speak, that's amazing, why have you never spoken until now?*' He replied: '*Nothing was wrong until now*'