

Jaden
Jan 30th 2018
JS

5 paragraph essay

In these units I learned from the Talmud and the Mishnah, they were stories that taught you more about Judaism. There was the story of Hannah, the story of Rabban Gamliel's kids, and the story of the Chassid on the road. In all of these stories it teaches us about praying. It mostly teaches us about the rules and how to do act during the amidah and shema. It still hasn't changed my opinion and how I do tefillah, but it definitely was very helpful to understand why these things happen. I just wonder what life would be like if these types of stories were happening right in front of me.

This was a story of when Rabban Gamliel children didn't do the shema. His children came home from a party that finished past midnight and said "We didn't do the shema!" But Gameleil told them that they only have before the sun comes up! He said that what they meant by midnight was sunrise to keep people from sinning. So they did the shema. Gamliel told them it was like there was a fence and you can cross it, but you shouldn't. So they understood and never did it again.

Once there was a guy praying on the road, and a police officer came and said 'Hello' to him, but the man did not respond. So the police officer waited until he was done praying. The officer said "How come you didn't say hello to me?" He continued, "doesn't it say in your Torah to protect your life, I could have chopped your head off!" The Rabbi answered that if you were talking to a normal human king and someone comes to you to say "Hello", would you say hello back? The police officer says of course not, I'm talking to the king! The Rabbi says back, "Exactly! If I'm talking to the king of

kings and you come to say hello, would I respond to you?" The officer understood and let him on his way. This story enforces the law to not speak during the amidah or react during the amidah, even if a snake wraps around your leg. I don't agree with the law, because God is all about saving yourself, which by chance, the officer pointed out.

This is the story of Hannah, and how she changed the amidah forever. Hannah was very upset, she was upset because she was born without the potential of having children. Every time she prayed, nothing happened. One day when she was praying she was praying without sound. Then Rabbi Eli thought she was drunk! Rabbi told her "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? SOBER UP!!!" Hannah told him she wasn't drunk and she never drinks strong drinks, but people who read this saw that she said 'No my lord' before she told him why. They people who saw this freaked out and tried to fix this, and thought she said something else. Hannah finished praying and later she had kids. This made three rules for the amidah, speak from your heart, speak without sound, and you can be drunk.

My experience with tefillah isn't good, I understand people don't think the same as me, but I don't like it. I feel like people are just praying to something that never helps anyone, and they act as they are always in desperate need and always say thank you. Wouldn't god want us to enjoy our life and not always bother him. The rule that you have to be silent during the amidah is understandable, but I only like it because it's quiet. I don't understand why we need to move our lips because it's useless! Either say it or just think it. I also don't understand why we kiss the torah, it's not a human! Wheres the first torah? It just vanished?? I really don't understand tefillah, I understand you can't

be drunk but I don't understand blessing someone if you assumed, you should be able to just say sorry. If I thought someone was punching someone and they were just pretend punching, what am I going to do? I was just looking out, now I have to bless them.

I think that the stories were interesting but didn't really change my beliefs. The helped understand why these things happened and added some extra to help understand, but it wasn't true because some of these things aren't possible. The Chassid story was possible, the Gamliel kids story was possible, the Hannah story wasn't possible. Also these were a long time ago! We need to learn their magic! It's cool to know what people come up with then and now, or what was true.