

CCH sermon 27th Jan 2019 1 Samuel 2:1-11

“Hannah’s Song”

v9b-10a

If life is a game of cards what kind of cards do you have in your hand?

- Perhaps some of us are **resource rich**. We have a decent job, a loving family, £ (a royal flush). We’re quite happy with our cards.
- For others other **end of the scale**. No hope. Sometimes want to give up. Feel like we’ve been dealt a pretty bad hand. 2 clubs.
- And probably most of us **somewhere in between**. Life feels a mix of good things and bad at different times.

Well Hannah’s story tells us that it doesn’t really matter what cards you have been dealt in life. It’s not even how clever you are that wins the game. Hannah teaches us it’s what **God does** with our lives that matters.

- **2 weeks** ago we saw her situation turned around from
 - terrible abuse by a family member who bullied and aggravated her for not being able to have kids,
 - to having a beautiful baby boy,
 - in answer to her prayers.
- Shock: **Last week** we saw her give that precious boy away again!
 - Giving him back to God in an act of extraordinary devotion
 - because she knew what a great God he is.
- **Today** part 3 we listen as she sings us a solo (well prayer!)...
 - reflecting on what God has done for her.
 - [We were going to ask our Hannah to sing a solo!]
- We’d do well to listen to this prayer/song, as it tells us to put our confidence in the Lord. Messg.
- It’s what he does with our cards, not ourselves that matters.
 - Challenge for resource rich
 - God can reverse everything
 - Encouragement for resource poor
 - God can reverse everything
 - So let’s listen as she sings us the song in three parts

PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD ...

1) ... ITS HIS VERDICT THAT COUNTS (v1-3)

- This prayer or song is full of joy.
- Just a couple of points to get bearings.
 1. Like songs of other great women in Bible, Deborah or Miriam’s song poem goes w narrative and explains what’s going on.
 2. Starts personal>general> universal
 3. It starts and finishes with a “horn” (like brackets)
 - I used to live near Richmond Park
 - More points on antler stronger bigger older the deer.
 - Well horn symbolises strength atop an animal.
 - It tops and tails this song (v1, v10b)
 - And it tops and tails the whole Samuel story (here and in 2 Sa 22:3)
 - Means Hannah saying that she’s got superstrength.
 - But it’s in the Lord (his name 12 times!)
 - She’s saying you can have a really weak pack of cards but if put them in Lord’s hands you will have strength.
- LORD brought real turnaround/*rescue/salvation* for her (v1).
 - Is that an overstatement? not when we know who S is!
- V2 She reflects on how uniquely good God is
 - Rock! Great Totally reliable and solid.
 - As a geologist I love this metaphor.
 - It also tops and tails Samuel and comes back in David’s Song in 2 Sam 22.
- And then in v3 her prayer goes horizontal!
 - I think it’s aimed at Penninah- the scheming woman who was bullying her for being without a child.
- **But it’s the end of v3 that really struck me.**
 - It’s God who knows.
 - He knows the truth.
- ☞ Maybe you’ve been having a hard time from a family member. Somehow they know which buttons to press. Your mum, your sibling, your spouse.
 - Call you all sorts of untrue things or just nasty things.
 - Well God knows the truth.

- It's his verdict that counts.
 - Not what other people say.
 - ▲ Alex the Lion & his dad in Madagascar 2!
 - Not a real lion cos dances instead of fights.
 - Don't listen to verdict of people.
 - THE LORD IS A GOD WHO KNOWS AND BY HIM DEEDS ARE WEIGHED.
 - Encouragement/ Challenge....
- ☞ Maybe some of us are proud at the moment. Needs to stop.
 - God knows and weighs yr attitudes. Stop all arrogance.
 - Pride like Sin has I in the middle. Ugly no place for it in Christian faith.
 - How foolish to boast in our riches, our status, our gifts, our background, our abilities, as we are about to see...

PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD ...

1) ... IT'S HIS VERDICT THAT COUNTS (v1-3)

2) ... IT'S HIS RESOURCES THAT MATTER (v4-8)

- This section is all about reversals (looked at passg at end Dec)
- Someone with nothing is given everything
 - That's Hannah's song
 - But here she's saying that's how God loves to work.
- I counted 7 kinds of turnarounds. Let me show you...
 - In areas of
 - V4 weapons
 - V5a food
 - V5b children
 - V6 life
 - V7 money
 - V8a status
 - V8b honour
- Now 3rd of these (children) is looks to be autobiographical
 - 7 is the divine number.
 - At this stage she's probably only had 1 child & given back to God, 5 others come later.
 - But it's as if she's got the perfect number.

- While perhaps Peninniah is pining away
 - Possibly hers had died. That's just a guess.
 - Pining away can mean forlorn or sad.
 - It would fit the reversals.
- But Hannah has moved on from the personal to the general
 - Camera has zoomed out.
 - She's describing how God loves to work.
 - And this song becomes a prophecy of what's going to happen in the book.
- It's staggering.
 - Can I give you couple of **examples**.
 - You can search for some more in your own time and in Life groups next week.
- 1) GUNS.
 - Who has all the muscle in 1 Samuel?
 - Goliath looks pretty big in 1 Sam 17.
 - He's 3 metres high
 - With armour weighing 58 kg
 - He's more of a tank than a man
 - But the boy who brings cheese sandwiches to the troops can down him with no armour and 1 slingshot.
 - ▲ most Hollywood stories
- 2) FOOD.
 - Look carefully at food in 1 Samuel.
 - Those who have loads of food (like Nabal in chapter 25) who doesn't share it drops down dead.
 - And repeatedly in the book God provides honey for hungry Jonathan (ch14), a feast for David's hungry men (ch25), and even special bread from the priest in ch21
- 3) Even LIFE AND DEATH are in his hands.
 - How many times do we see that in the book
 - Don't listen to these silly critics who say the OT doesn't believe in resurrection. **V6.**

Don't miss how big is (v8)

▲ One of our kids- Don't worry about school God with you.
"Yes and God can lift up the whole world".

- It's God's resources that matter.
 - So what you are unemployed
 - So what you have an addiction
 - So what you could never read in church in front of all these people.
- ☞ Put your confidence in the Lord.
 - You don't have food. God can provide it.
 - You don't have any status v8.
 - You don't have life.
 - **It's a wonderful picture of the gospel.**
 - We don't have life.
 - Dead in transgressions and sins (Eph 2)
 - But made alive in Christ.
- Such a warning against
 - Fatness
 - Spiritual haves (like we saw with Pharisees).
 - Think you've got everything you won't need Jesus.
- So does he **provide everything**?
 - Kids if I'm struggling with infertility
 - Health if I'm struggling with
 - He may not provide everything you want.
 - Even by the end of the book the Philistines still seem to be winning.
 - But eventually, even in heaven, he will sort everything out for you.
 - Jesus' life was a V- ours will be too!
- ☞ But be careful if you are resource rich.
 - The **Lord gives and the Lord takes away.**
 - He can send a famine, a disease, a recession a job loss.
- Sometimes this happens even on the microscale
 - ▲ Writing a sermon.
 - Think got it all sorted. Have to keep learning it.
 - Lord reminds me that I'm thick and I can't do it in own strength
 - Have to cry out to the Lord, pour out my soul to him like Hannah did.
 - **PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD**

PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD ...

1) ... IT'S HIS VERDICT THAT COUNTS (v1-3)

2) ... IT'S HIS RESOURCES THAT MATTER (v4-8)

3) ... IT'S HIS OUTCOME THAT LASTS (v9-10)

- I'm going to read the last 2 verse, spot the surprise?
- Come to it.
- V9a. Don't you want to be faithful to him
 - Rather than wickedly carrying on in self-dependence
- V9b
- I love v10 because Hannah is prophesying what will happen later in the book.
 - 1 Sam 7:10 In the battle of Mizpah "That day the Lord thundered against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites". **PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD**
- Do you see how what started as...
 - **Personal**
 - Becomes **General**
 - Becomes **Universal**- other nations in view, and even "the Lord will judge the ends of the earth".
- But the real surprise comes end of v10.
 - Where did the King come from?
- Let's remember where we are on the timeline.
 - The first king in Israel (apart from a disastrous brush with kingship in Judges 9) hasn't come yet.
 - It's Saul in chapter 9 of this book.
 - And then David in chapter 16.
- So again Hannah is looking forward prophetically.
- And she's saying that what God did for her- v1 "In the lord my horn (my strength) is lifted high", he's going to do for the King.
 - It's a challenge to all future kings to make sure they learn this lesson. Put your confidence in the Lord. It's not by strength that one prevails (v9).

- What an amazing prayer.
 - Starts personal
 - Becomes general
 - And the zoom lens opens right out until it's looking forward to a King.
 - God is going to solve the leadership crisis in the nation with the coming of a King.
 - It's his outcome that lasts.
 - And that was King after God's heart: DAVID.
- But it's even bigger than that.
 - Because the Kings of Israel, even David and Solomon failed.
 - They didn't rule as God wanted them to.
 - They had very major faults.
 - And the history of Kings is a BIG rollercoaster.
- Until one day a pregnant young woman visiting her cousin both of whom are going to have special leadership sons sings this.
 - Luke 1:46. Watch how similar it is to 1 Sam 2
 - *'My soul glorifies the Lord (v1)*
 - *and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour (v1),*
 - *for he has been mindful*
 - *of the humble state of his servant (v7).*
 - *From now on all generations will call me blessed,*
 - *for the Mighty One has done great things for me*
 - *holy is his name.*
 - *His mercy extends to those who fear him,*
 - *from generation to generation.*
 - *He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;*
 - *he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. (v3)*
 - *He has brought down rulers from their thrones*
 - *but has lifted up the humble. (v8)*
 - *He has filled the hungry with good things*
 - *but has sent the rich away empty. (v5)*
 - *He has helped his servant Israel,*
 - *remembering to be merciful*
 - *to Abraham and his descendants for ever,*
 - *just as he promised our ancestors.'*
- The outcome that lasts is the provision of a King who will rule with absolute justice, who doesn't have to atone for his own sins.
- A king who will lay down his life not to solve the political leadership crisis, but the spiritual sin crisis.
 - *So that when we come empty handed to this Saviour*
 - *He lifts up the humble*
 - *And fills the hungry with good things*
 - *Isn't it awesome!*
 - *Have you done that?*
- There are some here today who think they can face death without Jesus Christ. Foolish. He will win! (v10)
 - In life you may have degrees and money and respect and family, but without Christ you will be "silenced in the place of darkness" (v9)
 - *Humble yourself under his mighty hand.*
 - *Turn to Jesus. It's his outcome that matters.*
 - *While there's still time.*
- **Put your confidence in the Lord.**
- Let's pray.