

Sermon Notes

“The Great Reversal: When God Flips Things on Their Head”

1 Samuel 2:1-10

June 18, 2017

Introduction:

- b. How is this message counter-cultural? That is, where have you heard the opposite message trumpeted in our culture?

- c. What are we tempted (or told by our culture) to rely upon in order to prevail (“make life work”) instead of upon the incomparable God (1 Sam. 2:2)?

- 6. Many years later another woman prayed a prayer that sounded astonishingly like Hannah’s prayer. Read Luke 1:46-55.
 - a. What parallels do you find between the *causes* and the *contents* of these two prayers? How might Hannah’s prayer have influenced Mary’s?

 - b. In 1 Samuel, God is bringing about his victory through that which looks weak and inconsequential – even through that which looks like defeat. How does this anticipate the way God worked through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus?

Let's Pray:

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 6-18-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 22-23; Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 26-27; John Woodhouse, Preaching the Word: 1 Samuel, Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2008, pp. 49.

Getting Started:

1. When have you observed human gimmicks substituted for dependence upon the power of God?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Sam. 2:1. Through the repeated personal pronouns in verse 1 (“My heart ... my horn ... my mouth ... I delight”), Hannah speaks personally of the impact of the Lord in her life. How would you describe what it means personally for you to be able to say with Hannah, “My heart rejoices in the LORD ... I delight in your deliverance” (1 Sam. 2:1)?
3. Read 1 Sam. 2:3. Hannah follows an admonition with a motivation to comply.
 - a. How would you paraphrase her reasoning in this verse?

- b. Arrogance can lead us to self-centeredness, self-confidence, and self-sufficiency. Are there areas where your human abilities, achievements, triumphs, and successes are leading you toward wrongful pride? How does Hannah’s admonition assist in curbing this?

4. Read 1 Sam. 2:4-8.

- a. In vv. 4-5, Hannah portrays 3 sets of reversals. Identify each. What do they represent in that culture?
- b. In vv. 6-8 there seems to be shift. After 3 sets of reversals, Hannah moves on to the sovereignty of the LORD over the positives and negatives of life. How do we feel about the teaching that the LORD “kills ... brings down to the grave ... makes poor ... brings low”? We usually celebrate the LORD doing positive things, but how do we feel about attributing these negative actions to him?

5. Read 1 Sam. 2:9. A key theme of this prayer is summed up at the end of the verse: “It is not by [one’s own] strength that one prevails.”

- a. How is this principle counter-intuitive?