

(Some sermons on Judges Period)

Heart of Iron, Feet of Clay (Judges 2:6-23)

1. Changing of the guard (vss 7-10)
 - Old guard who knew God
 - New guard who did not know God
2. 'Did not know God' – meaning?
 - No knowledge
 - Not acknowledge
 - No regard for – not care about God
 - 1 Samuel 2:12 – Eli's sons
 - Jeremiah 9:3 – Judah in Jeremiah's time
3. Consequent action
 - Did what was evil (v 11)
 - Worshipped Baals (v 11)
 - Abandoned Yahweh (v 12)
 - Infuriated God (v 12)
4. Divine response (v 14 onwards)
 - God was angry
 - Left them vulnerable – abandoned them
 - Was against them
5. Epitaph (v 116 onwards)
 - Judged
 - Saved
 - Sinned
 - No complete liberation
6. Why did God allow this situation to persist? (Judges 3:1-4)
 - To make them stronger (v 2)
 - To test their loyalty (v 4)

Would you know? (Judges 13:2-24)

Manoah

- V 8 – prayed for what is already revealed
- V 11 – questioned the revelation
- V 12 – questioned a stated mission
- V 15 – made a meaningless suggestion
- V 16 – did not know – no knowledge – not acknowledge – not recognise
- V 17 – questioned the identity of the angel
- V 21-22 – feared the outcome

Mrs Manoah

- V 6
- Recognised God
- Asked no explanations of origins
- Did not seek identity
- Understood the message
- Responded with faith and fear
- Received a miracle

Which one are you?

Mistaken Sight (1 Samuel 1:1-20)

Elkanah

- V 3 – a good and devout man
- V 5 – truly loved Hannah
- V 8 – suffered the malady of mistaken sight – saw himself for more than he could be

Eli

- High priest – apex of holiness
- V 12-16 – saw only soundless lips – scolded a woman in pain
- Infected by the virus of mistaken sight – saw less than what is real

Hannah

- Taunted, traumatised woman
- Worshipper in agony
- V 5-7 – felt God's hand keenly
- V 7 – vented her pain openly
- V 10 -- was deeply hurt
- V 11 – negotiated a resolution
- V 15 – acknowledged her brokenness
- V 16 – was deeply resentful of her situation
- Most affected by mistaken sight – saw God as her tormentor

Eli's intervention (v 17)

- 'go in peace' – 'shalom'
- 'God of Israel will grant your petition' – 'shelah'

Hannah's turnaround (v 18)

- Acknowledged her blessing – 'find grace'
- Took action – 'went on her way and ate'
- Replaced her mistaken sight – 'her face was not to her again'