



Lesson 63 – Eli and His Sons

based on 1 Samuel 2:12-36.

- 1) What was recorded about Eli the High Priest's sons?
1 Samuel 2:12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of _____; they knew not the LORD.
- 2) What did they do that was so bad?
1 Samuel 2:13-14 And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered _____, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook _____ the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.
1 Samuel 2:15-16 Also before they burnt the _____, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw. And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by _____.
3) What effect did that have on those who came to the Tabernacle?
1 Samuel 2:17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the _____ of the LORD.

Eli was priest and judge in Israel. He held the highest and most responsible positions among the people of God. As a man divinely chosen for the sacred duties of the priesthood and set over the land as the highest judicial authority, he was looked up to as an example, and he wielded a great influence over the tribes of Israel.

But although he had been appointed to govern the people, he did not rule his own household. Eli was an indulgent father. Loving peace and ease, he did not exercise his authority to correct the evil habits and passions of his children. Rather than contend with them or punish them, he would submit to their will and give them their own way.

- 4) What was said about Abraham?
Genesis 18:19 For I know him, that he will command his children and his _____ after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Eli allowed his children to control him. The father became subject to the children. The curse of transgression was apparent in the corruption and evil that marked the course of his sons. They had no proper appreciation of the character of God or of the sacredness of His law. His service was to them a common thing. From childhood they had been accustomed to the sanctuary and its service; but instead of becoming more reverent, they had lost all sense of its holiness and significance.

- 5) Which offering were Eli's sons robbing from the people?
Leviticus 7:29 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, He that offereth the sacrifice of his _____ offerings unto the LORD shall bring his oblation unto the LORD of the sacrifice of his peace offerings.



The peace-offering was often associated with the other offerings; and wherever, except in the Passover feast, the people ate of the flesh, it was the peace-offering that was celebrated. The individual who offered the peace-offering laid his hands on the head of the animal and then slew it. Afterward, he separated all the fat from the different organs of the body, and the priest burned the fat upon the altar of burnt-offering. Not only was the fat given to the priest, but also the breast, the right shoulder, and the “two cheeks” of every offering. The fat symbolized sin, the person offering the peace-offering was to remove sin from their lives, the removing of the fat of the slain animal symbolized that.

The flesh of the Peace offering was shared among the Priests and the ones offering it. When peace is made with God we all share in the blessing.

6) Did Eli address his son's behavior?

1 Samuel 2:23-24 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I _____ of your evil dealings by all this people. Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to _____.

Eli had greatly erred in permitting his sons to minister in holy office. By excusing their course, on one pretext and another, he became blinded to their sins; but at last, they reached a pass where he could no longer hide his eyes from the crimes of his sons. The people complained of their violent deeds, and the high priest was grieved and distressed. He dared remain silent no longer. But his sons had been brought up to think of no one but themselves, and now they cared for no one else.

7) Why is it important to not represent God falsely?

1 Samuel 2:25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would _____ them.

These unfaithful priests also transgressed God's law and dishonored their sacred office by their vile and degrading practices; yet they continued to pollute by their presence the tabernacle of God. Many of the people, filled with indignation at the corrupt course of Hophni and Phinehas, ceased to come up to the appointed place of worship. Thus, the service which God had ordained was despised and neglected because associated with the sins of wicked men, while those whose hearts were inclined to evil were emboldened in sin. Ungodliness, profligacy, and even idolatry prevailed to a fearful extent.

8) Did God remain silent?

1 Samuel 2:27-28 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did I _____ appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy _____ all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

1 Samuel 2:29-30 Wherefore _____ ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people? Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it _____ from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.



1 Samuel 2:31-32 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine _____. And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the _____ which God shall give Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

God charged Eli with honoring his sons above the Lord. Eli had permitted the offering appointed by God as a blessing to Israel to be made a thing of abhorrence, rather than bring his sons to shame for their impious and abominable practices. Those who follow their own inclination, in blind affection for their children, indulging them in the gratification of their selfish desires, and do not bring to bear the authority of God to rebuke sin and correct evil, make it manifest that they are honoring their wicked children more than they honor God.

9) Removing them from service was Eli's job, would God do it?

1 Samuel 2:33-34 And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to _____ thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age. And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall _____ both of them.

It seems very cold hearted, but God allowed Eli to see the outcome of his decisions and why obedience to the laws of God are important. God would not kill them but let them have what they desire which would lead to their own destruction. God is still the author of free will.

God held Eli, as a priest and judge of Israel, accountable for the moral and religious standing of his people, and in a special sense for the character of his sons. He should first have attempted to restrain evil by mild measures; but if these did not avail, he should have subdued the wrong by the severest means. He incurred the Lord's displeasure by not reproofing sin and executing justice upon the sinner. He could not be depended upon to keep Israel pure.

Those who have too little courage to reprove wrong, or who through indolence or lack of interest make no earnest effort to purify the family or the church of God, are held accountable for the evil that may result from their neglect of duty. We are just as responsible for evils that we might have checked in others by exercise of parental or pastoral authority as if the acts had been our own.

10) Those who are in Christian service, what should they remember?

2 Corinthians 5:20 Now then we are _____ for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Had Hophni and Phineas' crimes injured only their fellow men, the judge might have made reconciliation by appointing a penalty and requiring restitution; and thus, the offenders might have been pardoned. Or had they not been guilty of a presumptuous sin, a sin offering might have been presented for them. But their sins were so interwoven with their ministration as priests of the Most High, in offering sacrifice for sin, the work of God was so profaned and dishonored before the people, that no expiation could be accepted for them. Their own father, though himself high priest, dared not make intercession in their behalf; he could not shield them from the wrath of a holy God. Of all sinners, those are most guilty who cast contempt upon the means that Heaven has provided for man's redemption.

Can you see that Christian service requires discipline?

Would you like to represent Christ correctly?

When is it time to humble yourself before the LORD?