

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide

1 Samuel 2:27-36

6/23/21

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²⁷ And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh? ²⁸ Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel. ²⁹ Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?’ ³⁰ Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,’ but now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. ³¹ Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. ³² Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever. ³³ The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. ³⁴ And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day. ³⁵ And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever. ³⁶ And everyone who is left in your house shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and shall say, “Please put me in one of the priests’ places, that I may eat a morsel of bread.” ’ ”

Passage Summary

In this passage, God sent a prophet to talk with Eli and prophesy the end of both his family and their elevated position as the premier family of priests for the nation of Israel. Eli and his sons were supposed to be leading people to God in proper worship and instead they were using their positions of influence for personal gain without regard for God. God determines that He will raise up a new person, Samuel, who will be a faithful priest and do that which God desires.

Discussion Questions

(These questions are intended to generate discussion and promote application. Don't feel pressured to make it through all of them. The questions are made for the discussion leader, not the discussion leader for the questions.)

Worship warnings

Eli's sons, Hophni and Phineas, were using their positions of authority as priests of God to worship themselves rather than God. Referencing 1 Samuel 2:12-17 and 2:22 identify ways in which they were elevating themselves rather than God. In our personal worship and/or in our corporate worship, what are some ways that we might be tempted to elevate ourselves rather than God? How do we guard against it? How can we correct it if it begins to occur?

Stewardship of God's Blessings

The first thing the man of God did when he came to Eli with God's Word was to remind Eli of all that God had done for him (1 Samuel 2:27-28). What were some of the blessings God had bestowed upon Eli and his family?

Consider Eli's godly heritage in Numbers 25:10-13. What dangers and/or blessings were present for Eli because of his godly heritage? What does your godly heritage look like? What dangers and/or blessings are present for you because of your godly heritage?

Cautionary Tale

Was Eli held guilty for the sins of his sons? Was Eli held guilty for anything? In what ways does this example from the life of Eli stand as a cautionary tale for you?