

David Part 1 | A Prayer and A Promise | Pastor Steve 07.28.2019

Replay message at: <http://www.northpointeFL.org/messages>

Memory Verse: 1 Samuel 2:30

“Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.”

Read: 1 Samuel 2

1 Samuel 2:12-17 (NLT) --Eli's Wicked Sons

¹² Now the sons of Eli were scoundrels who had no respect for the LORD ¹³ or for their duties as priests. Whenever anyone offered a sacrifice, Eli's sons would send over a servant with a three-pronged fork. While the meat of the sacrificed animal was still boiling, ¹⁴ the servant would stick the fork into the pot and demand that whatever it brought up be given to Eli's sons. All the Israelites who came to worship at Shiloh were treated this way. ¹⁵ Sometimes the servant would come even before the animal's fat had been burned on the altar. He would demand raw meat before it had been boiled so that it could be used for roasting. ¹⁶ The man offering the sacrifice might reply, “Take as much as you want, but the fat must be burned first.” Then the servant would demand, “No, give it to me now, or I'll take it by force.” ¹⁷ So the sin of these young men was very serious in the LORD's sight, for they treated the LORD's offerings with contempt. “

- Why do you think the sons behaved the way they did?
- Why didn't they have respect for the Lord?
- How do you think the people of Israel felt about Eli and his sons?

1 Samuel 2:18-21 (NLT)

¹⁸ But Samuel, though he was only a boy, served the LORD. He wore a linen garment like that of a priest. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him when she came with her husband for the sacrifice. ²⁰ Before they returned home, Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the LORD give you other children to take the place of this one she gave to the LORD.” ²¹ And the LORD blessed Hannah, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.”

- Why do you think Samuel behaved the way he did?
- What were the differences between Samuel and the sons of Eli?

1 Samuel 2:21-26 (NLT)

²² Now Eli was very old, but he was aware of what his sons were doing to the people of Israel. He knew, for instance, that his sons were seducing the young women who assisted at the entrance of the Tabernacle. ²³ Eli said to them, “I have been hearing reports from all the people about the wicked things you are doing. Why do you keep sinning? ²⁴ You must stop, my sons! The reports I hear among the LORD's people are not good. ²⁵ If someone sins against another person, God can mediate for the guilty party. But if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede?” But Eli's sons wouldn't listen to their father, for the LORD was already planning to put them to death. ²⁶ Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew taller and grew in favor with the LORD and with the people.”

- Did Eli do enough? Why didn't he do more? What should Eli have done?
- Do you think the people wanted to go to the Tabernacle and give offerings?
- Why did Samuel continue to grow in favor with the Lord and the people?

1 Samuel 2:27-29 (NLT) --A Warning for Eli's Family

²⁷ One day a man of God came to Eli and gave him this message from the LORD: “I revealed myself to your ancestors when they were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt. ²⁸ I chose your ancestor Aaron from among all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer sacrifices on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear the priestly vest as he served me. And I assigned the sacrificial offerings to you priests. ²⁹ So why do you scorn my sacrifices and offerings? Why do you give your sons more honor than you give me—for you and they have become fat from the best offerings of my people Israel! “

- Which relationship did Eli value more—his relationship with God or his relationship with his sons?
- What do you think Eli's answer would be to the questions what were asked?
- What do you think Eli was thinking at this time?

1 Samuel 2:30-36 (NLT)

³⁰ “Therefore, the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me. ³¹ The time is coming when I will put an end to your family, so it will no longer serve as my priests. All the members of your family will die before their time. None will reach old age. ³² You will watch with envy as I pour out prosperity on the people of Israel. But no members of your family will ever live out their days. ³³ The few not cut off from serving at my altar will survive, but only so their eyes can go blind and their hearts break, and their children will die a violent death. ³⁴ And to prove that what I have said will come true, I will cause your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, to die on the same day! ³⁵ “Then I will raise up a faithful priest who will serve me and do what I desire. I will establish his family, and they will be priests to my anointed kings forever. ³⁶ Then all of your surviving family will bow before him, begging for money and food. ‘Please,’ they will say, ‘give us jobs among the priests so we will have enough to eat.’”

- What is a promise? What is a bargain? Do you think God's promise here --was a promise or a bargain?
- Why do you think God was just in his decision?
- How do you think Eli felt hearing what was going to happen?
- What does this story tell us about raising our children?