

Date: May 20, 2018
Title: The Sons of Eli
Text: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Intro: Today we are going to look at the sons of Eli; two men who were religious, but who were not regenerate. In fact, you can say they were devoted, but degenerates.

There's something about the Word of God that we must remember at this point. The Word of God does not sugarcoat the nature of man—or woman. The Word of God tells us with precision what unsaved mankind is like. The Word of God also shows us the converse: what a born-again believer is like.

The story is sad; but the story ends with a promise. Please learn these great truths with me this morning.

I. Three words that describe the sons of Eli

A. They were corrupt

1. Worthless
2. Wicked
3. Worn out

B. They were callous – v17

1. The offering is a prophetic symbol of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross
2. The calloused heart disregards the truth that Jesus died for our sins
3. The calloused heart likes to involve others in its sin – v15-16
4. The signs of the calloused heart

- a) Despises correction – Je. 5:3; He. 12:5
- b) Refuses to repent when convicted – Am. 4:9
- c) Becomes corrupt in everything it does – Zep. 3:7
- d) Rejects truth – Ga. 3:1

C. They were condemned – v25

1. Sudden death syndrome - Pro. 29:1
2. They sinned away their opportunity to repent
 - a) If you know someone who thinks they can live like hell's emissaries and then finally accept the Lord at the midnight hour, just before they die, you should tell them about these two boys
 - b) If you think you can repent any old time, you better rethink your theology. You can only be saved at God's time, not yours
3. But please wait and listen carefully to this: he that believes not on the Lord Jesus is condemned already! – Jn. 3
 - a) Eli's sons did not know the Lord
 - b) What about you?

II. Three words that describe Eli

A. Forgetful

1. Forgot about the guidance of God in rearing his children – Dt. 6:6-9
2. Forgot about the grace of God in choosing Aaron's house to be the priestly lineage
3. Forgot about the goodness of God in providing through the offerings of others

B. Spiteful

1. He kicked the sacrifice
2. He honored his sons more than the Lord
 - a) When your children determine whether or not you serve the Lord, you are likely honoring them more than the Lord
 - b) When your children's activities take priority over the things of God, you may be honoring them over the Lord
 - c) If you want to honor your children, make it your priority to honor the Lord

C. Lustful

1. Their appetites
 - a) The sons learned from watching their father – 1 Sa. 2:29; 4:18
 - b) The sons went farther than their father – their appetite for the sensual

2. Their attitude – only the best was good enough for them
 - a) The greater sin of those who teach prosperity theology is not prosperity
 - b) The greater sin is that you deserve the best, when the best is what we are to give to the Lord

III. Three words that describe God's response

A. Principle – v30

1. If you honor God, God will magnify you
2. If you despise God, God will minimize you

B. Punishment

1. The death of his sons
2. The destitution of his lineage

C. Priesthood – v35

1. God raised up a faithful priest
2. God raised up a final priest

Conclusion: Henry Blackaby wrote, "One family's sin affected the entire nation." We are not a nation. But we are the body of Christ. Imagine the impact of unrepentant hearts on the entire local body of Christ Jesus. Unrepentant hearts impact your community and mine. Wait, please; I need to take this farther. The sin of one family can impact the body around the world. If it weakens our prayer lives, that impacts the world. If it weakens our provisions for missions, this impacts the world.

We need to seek the face of the final priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, who lives for the purpose of

interceding for us. We need to plead with Him and we need to trust Him to forgive us and restore us, and if necessary regenerate us.

Invitation: