

The Important Questions

1 Samuel 2:11-36

1. Who is Guiding Your Life? Vs. 11-22

Eli's sons used their position as a priest to fuel their greed and their sinful desires which brought dishonour to God and brought harm to those around.

Samuel used his position as a priest to bring God glory and faithfully served God which God blessed and Samuel became a blessing to others.

Serving God is more than being apart of a ministry or calling yourself a Christian. Serving God is all about the pursuit of bringing God glory through living according to His will.

Questions:

- "This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt." (1 Samuel 2:17) What are some ways a person might show similar contempt for the Lord in our context?
- How does worshipping God protect us from a me-centred perspective and empowers us to realign our perspective to focusing on God?

2. Who do you honour most? Vs 23-26

Eli's oversight of his two sons as father and head priest lacked spiritual guidance and proper discipline throughout their lives, as Eli chose to honour his sons more than honouring God (verse 29).

How we equip and love others will only be fruitful when our lives are all about honouring God more than anyone else; to have a heart that is sensitive to God's will.

Question:

- Who are the people we try to please? How can this pleasing mindset hinder us from holding those followers of Christ accountable when they choose to live contrary to God's word?

3. What is God's Expectation? Vs. 27-36

The prophet rebukes Eli for scorning God's gift of the high calling of the priestly office and the generous provision made to his family, and informs Eli of the judgment that will take place upon his whole family due to Eli's family's lack of faithfulness towards God.

Although God's promises are eternal, the benefits of those promises are contingent on our continued faithfulness towards Him.

Question:

- Eli and his sons were blessed with the gift of being chosen by God to serve as priests and received provisions from Him to be able to live and serve for Him. Unfortunately, they did not use these blessings for God's glory. What gifts and provisions has God blessed you with that He is calling you to use to bring Him glory?

Conclusion:

Let us stand firm and choose daily the pursuit of bringing God glory through living according to His will, to honour God over anything else, and to remain faithful to Him no matter what we face.