

1 Samuel #02 – SERMON NOTES

1 Samuel 2:1-36

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Homiletical Proposition and Outline

Proposition: We must fear God

Key Word...

1. If we fear God, we'll have a right view of His blessings (Hannah giving Sam back to God)...
2. If we fear God's will have a right view of our lives (here to serve God by serving others)
3. If we fear God, we'll have a right view of success

Introduction...

Don't let idols get the best of your life...

1 Samuel 2...

1 & 2 Sam have war, ambition, murder, jealousy, deception, love, hate, truth, lies...

In other words, 1 & 2 Sam are true to life

Set stage – Hannah...

Dysfunctional home... dysfunctional culture...

PICK STORY UP IN 1:28

READ vv. 1-11...

Hannah praised God publically for three reasons...

1. God's glory – vv. 1-3
2. God's power – vv. 4-8
3. God's triumph – vv. 9-10

and this is coming from a woman in a world of hurt dysfunction...

In the midst of all that, she fears God, we might say she respects God...

And from there, the account gets bad, very bad, in a real hurry...

READ v. 12a...

“Worthless” = worthless or wicked... evil and good-for-nothing...  
... scoundrels ... corrupt .. literally, sons of the devil...

These are grown men... adults... Eli, their dad, is close to 90 years old by this point, so the odds are these guys are in their late 50's and 60's....

these are not spring chickens... whatever those are...

Now what they are doing is they are priests... just like Moses' brother Aaron the high priest, and then Aaron's family served as priests, so here Eli's is the high priest and his two sons are serving as priests on a day to day level..

And we're going to read what they do, but the Bible is going to tip us off WHY these men act the way they do...

READ v. 12b...

These men are not saved...

It certainly appears as if their dad, Eli, is saved...

But they are not...

And because they are not... they...

READ vv. 13-14...

Now this might strike your eyes as a bit strange...

B/c the Law of Moses delineates with no uncertain terms portion of the sacrifices belonged to God alone...

You can read about those in Lev. 10:14-15 and Numbers 18...

But sufficient to say, God had said nothing about sending your servant w/ a three-pronged fork while the meat was still boiling and take whatever it is you want...

Ever know someone, maybe a brother, who could figure out the biggest piece of pie a mile off... and put "dibs" on it?

That's what these servant are doing with the sacrifice...

But it doesn't end there...

READ v. 15...

This means, before they even start cooking the sacrifice, the Hophinas and Phineas's servants would come and take the meat before it was cooked...

That is strictly forbidden by Leviticus 3:3-5 and 7:30... that is, before the LORD had been given His portion...

And please notice, it's not just that they were doing this...

They were threatening the people who wanted to do it the right way with violence..

And why are they doing all of these things? (Answer; they are not saved)...

And with all that mess going on...

READ vv. 18... Samuel is continually ministering before the LORD...

And Hannah, his mother, comes each year to worship God there... and when she does, she brings him a new priestly garment...

That's what the little robe...

And it makes no difference how old he is, his mother is still going to call it a little robe...

READ 20-21... and you'll need to remember that we are never told of Hannah asking for other children... she didn't say, "God, I'll give you this one if you give me 5 more..."

So this blessing of children is not because she struck a bargain w/ God...

God, in His inscrutable wisdom, decided to bless her w/ 5 more children...

So Samuel is being blessed... and his family is being blessed...

But the account is going to take a bad turn...

READ vv. 22...

Eli is very old... maybe even as old as 90... which in that day was an incredible feat...

And he keeps hearing... now, please understand this, as a high priest, he has authority, God-appointed, God-ordained authority over who serves as priests...

And he didn't just hear it once... or twice... but the way this is written, his continually hears, from multiple sources, of this atrocity...

The idea is that he "kept hearing" this...

And watch what he does about it...

READ v. 23

he doesn't fire them... he doesn't take away their authority... he just talks to them...

And it gets worse, if you can imagine that...

READ v. 24...

"It is not a good report..."

He doesn't say, "a bad report..." "An atrocious report..."

He just says... "a not good report..." Makes you want to puke...

"I hear spreading through God's people" = everyone knows about this behavior... they were shameless in their actions...

And we are not told who these women are... but they probably had part in helping families prepare for the sacrifice...

Like the widow Anna in the Gospel of Luke chapter 2 who served in the temple as a widow...

And because of this behavior...

READ vv. 25..

Eli pictures a courtroom... if I've sinned against Kevin, and I go to Kevin and ask him to forgive me, if he refuses to forgive me, I can go to God and ask Him to change Kevin's heart towards me...

But if I sin against God... I can't go to Kevin and ask Him to intercede for me... to change God's heart...

So this prophet of God says to Eli...

And I know to our ears and eyes, this sounds and looks harsh... but it really isn't...

These two men have corrupted God's sacrifice for the people's sins...

And now we are told they have corrupted relationships with these women who are not their wives...

And then the Bible tells us that they would not listen to him...

B/c... READ v. 25b...

This is one of the several unnamed prophets in the OT... who he is makes no difference...

Now, we know biblically that God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked...

Ezekiel 33:11 – As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked would turn from his way and live!

So God takes no pleasure in killing people...

But He does take pleasure in bringing justice to the world...

Justice is a central trait in God's character –

The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who by no means clear the guilty..."

God takes pleasure in bringing an end to sin and all it entails...

Eli certainly isn't going to remove these men from being priests...

But God certainly will...

These are not teens... these are adult men who are ordained as priests of God... who care nothing about God's sacrifice and nothing about treating women in a godly manner...

This is justice...

But there is a bright spot... b/c while all of that was going on...

READ v. 26...

And the young man = he's a late teen or early 20's by this point...

And he's godly... he's a leader... he's a priest... he's growing in stature... with God and with man...

God can trust him... people can trust him... he and his mother Hannah are about the only bright spot in the whole account, frankly...

And then, after that short report of how things were going for Samuel...

We are plunged back into some of them most sobering and terrifying words in all the Bible...

RED vv. 27-28...

God reminds Eli what He has done... He took them out of Egypt... He made them priests of Him to all Israel...

And what does God get in return?

READ vv. 29

And those words "honor your sons above me"...

That's the issue here...

The boys, Hophi and Phinias do what they do because they are not saved...

Eli doesn't rebuke them... b/c he honors his sons more than he honors God...

And please note, Eli has been getting in on the taking the meat from the sacrifices..

We'll learn in two chapters that he is a heavy-set guy...

And here we are told why he, in his case, is over-weight...

He's been eating the food that his sons stole by threats from God's sacrifice...

And please notice, Eli's boys will be judged for their own sins...

And Eli will be judged for his...

He had the audacity to honor his sinful boys they he honored the pure and holy God of eternity...

He never stopped his boys...

He never removed them from the priesthood...

And worse that, he took and fed himself with the meat they stole from God's people that was supposed to be offered to God...

And he's the high priest...

So here's God's judgment...

READ v. 30-36...

These men had broken the agreement God had made with their ancestors.... therefore God is released from the agreement based upon their breach of contract...

Eli's two boys will both die on the same day...  
Future generations of Eli's family will suffer...

And this may sound unfair to us... they are going to die young...

Well, long life is not promised to anyone...

But what this does, effectively, is remove them from influence in Israel...

Our culture is a culture that adores youth and vitality... where the leaders and shakers are young...

It's not that way in many countries, even today... for instance in Uganda Africa, when tribes need to make decisions, the oldest

members of the tribe carry the biggest vote...

also, because of this, they would not live long enough to serve as priests...

With the end result that, instead of being in positions of power and influence, they are going to be asking for favors...

God is removing from Israel any influence that Eli and his ungodly sons had on future generations...

So what God is doing here is not punishing those future generations by their early deaths...

But he is punishing Eli by removing his family from any position to influence the nation for either good or evil...

I think we have enough on the table...

Let's walk through what this means...

1. If we fear God, we'll have a right view of His blessings (Hannah giving Sam back to God)...
2. If we fear God's will have a right view of our authority
3. If we fear God, we'll have a right view of success