

VI. WHAT A DISHONORABLE DAD LOOKS LIKE: 1 Samuel 2:22-36

INTRODUCTION: Hophni and Phinehas are the two worthless sons of Eli held up before our eyes in 1 Samuel chapter 2. They are negative examples; what not to act like, who not to be like.

(i) Hophni and Phinehas knew about the Lord but they did not know the Lord, (ii) They created customs and traditions according to their own desires rather than submitting to the Law of the Lord, (iii) These worthless men insisted on their own way and hated reproof, (iv) They disrespected the sacrifice of the Lord, (v) Hophni and Phinehas used women rather than honoring them for the Lord's glory and the women's good, (vi) They found themselves eventually handed over to hardness of heart and to destruction, unable to repent and be reconciled to God.

These are truly worthless men. On their way to hell, they falsely portrayed Christ, perverted the worship of God, disrespected Christ crucified, used women, and dishonored their father, wreaking havoc on all who were around them.

Q. But how did they get so far off? Why were they such worthless men? **A.** One answer is this: *They had a dishonorable dad.* Eli, the High Priest at this time in Israel, attended to the Temple but did not attend to his sons.

THEME/BIG IDEA OF WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM 1 SAMUEL 2:22-36 IS: What a dishonorable dad looks like. What a shameful dad looks like. What a disgraceful dad looks like.

CONTEXT: 1 Samuel 2:29 "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?"

First, you and I need to understand this passage, then we need to apply it to our lives. I. What a Dishonorable Dad looks like. II. The Consequences of Eli's Dishonorable Patriarchy. With each of these main points I will seek to ask, *How can we make use of this passage for God's glory and our good?*

I. WHAT A DISHONORABLE DAD LOOKS LIKE (1 Samuel 2:22-29) *4

I) Eli gently rebuked his sons, and only when word spread abroad of their wickedness (1 Samuel 2:22-25a).

1 Samuel 2:22-25a

"22 Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the

tent of meeting. **23** And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. **24** No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. **25a** If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?"

(i) A Dishonorable Dad holds off correcting his children until their wickedness has become great.

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(ii) A Dishonorable Dad only gently rebukes his children, even when their case warrants severe discipline.

– **Proverbs 23:13** "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die."

BOYS AND GIRLS, Your parents must rebuke and reprove you when you sin. They do this because they love you.

II) Eli's rebuke was too little and too late, because the Lord had already decided to put his sons to death (1 Samuel 2:25b).

1 Samuel 2:25b

"But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death."

(i) Dishonorable dads often find themselves with damned sons and daughters, because God's ordinary means of grace normally travels from parents to their children.

– **Psalms 78:5-7** "5 he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments..."

(ii) If you hold off correcting your children until their sin becomes great, your correction may be too little too late.

– **Proverbs 22:15** "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him."

BOYS AND GIRLS, If your parents correct you and discipline you like God says to, it is because they love you. You should thank God for parents who love you enough to spank you and correct you!

BY THE WAY, the godly child Samuel is again contrasted with the worthless sons of Eli (1 Samuel 2:26).

1 Samuel 2:26

"Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man."

III) The LORD rebuked Eli like Eli should have done to his sons (1 Samuel 2:27-28).

1 Samuel 2:27-28

"**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."

(i) Dishonorable dads will eventually find themselves rebuked by the Lord for their leniency and lack of instruction given to their children.

**Maybe in this life, maybe in the next.*

- **Q.** Maybe that is you right now?

IV) The LORD held Eli responsible for the sins of his sons, because he did not reprove and remove them from their office (1 Samuel 2:29).

1 Samuel 2:29

"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?' (**v. 30** implies Eli dishonored and despised the LORD in favor of leniency toward his sons)

(i) Dishonorable dads honor their children above the Lord God.

(ii) Dishonorable dads are held responsible for the sins that grow in their children when they are due to their lack of discipline, training, and instruction.

(I) You have to train your children to be *disciplined* (Ephesians 6:4c).
Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

This must be both formative discipline and corrective discipline.

(I) For the honor of God, you have to set the example, men! Teach your children to be disciplined. **this is Formative discipline*

- **Proverbs 20:7** "The righteous who walks in his integrity— blessed are his children after him!"
- **1 Corinthians 9:24-27** "I buffet my body and make it my slave."

(II) For the honor of God, you have to use the rod, men! Teach your children

there are consequences when authorities are disobeyed. **this is Corrective discipline*

- **Proverbs 13:24** "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him."
- **Proverbs 19:18** "Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death."
- **Proverbs 22:15** "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him."
- **Proverbs 23:13** "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die."
- **Proverbs 29:15** "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."
- **Proverbs 29:17** "Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart."

******YOU AND I MUST ALWAYS ADD INSTRUCTION TO CORRECTION******

- **Dads and would be dads, you cannot neglect formative discipline, in setting the example; you cannot neglect corrective discipline, in rebuking, reproofing, and using the rod; and you cannot neglect instruction.**

(II) You have to train your children by *instructing* them (Ephesians 6:4d).

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

- **Proverbs 1:8-9**
"8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction,
and forsake not your mother's teaching,
9 for they are a graceful garland for your head
and pendants for your neck."

Dads and would be dads, hear me clearly:

You have to instruct your children in both the Law of God and the Gospel of God, both for salvation and for sanctification.

(I) For the honor of God, you have to instruct your children in the Law of God for salvation (Romans 7:7).

- **Romans 7:7** "If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin."

(II) For the honor of God, you have to instruct your children in the Gospel of God for salvation (1 Peter 1:23-25; Acts 2:38-39; John 6:40).

- **1 Peter 1:23** "You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of

imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God."

(III) For the honor of God, you have to instruct your children in the Law of God for sanctification (Romans 7:12).

- **Romans 7:12** "The law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good."

(IV) For the honor of God, you have to instruct your children in the Gospel of God for sanctification (Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 3:18).

- **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."
 - **2 Corinthians 3:18** "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

BOYS AND GIRLS, You need to learn the Law of God and the Gospel of God over and over again.

Daily Family Worship must not be neglected! Much of this instruction happens in that time.

Dads and future dads, you and I are to train up our children for the glory of Jesus, in the ways of Jesus, dependent on Jesus, so that we may fire our children like arrows into this world for Christ's name's sake (Psalm 127:3-5; Psalm 78:5-7).

OUR LAND NEEDS A REFORMATION AND REVIVAL OF BIBLICAL PARENTING! Let it start with us, dads. We must lead the way. May God help us to honor Him far above our children!

II. THE CONSEQUENCES OF ELI'S DISHONORABLE PATRIARCHY (1 Samuel 2:30-36) *3

I) The LORD promised to cut off the strength of Eli's family (1 Samuel 2:30-33).

1 Samuel 2:30-33 "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."

II) The LORD promised Eli his sons would be executed on the same day (1 Samuel 2:34).

1 Samuel 2:34 "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."

III) The LORD promised Eli He will raise up a High Priest to replace him and his family (1 Samuel 2:35-36).

1 Samuel 2:35-36 "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.""

- Zadok, by King Solomon.

LET ME MAKE TWO CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS

I) See how seriously the LORD takes the treatment of his sacrifice (1 Samuel 2:29; Hebrews 10:28-31).

- TURN WITH ME TO HEBREWS

Hebrews 10:28-31 "28 Anyone who has set aside the law of Moses dies without mercy on the evidence of two or three witnesses. 29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay." And again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

II) See how seriously the LORD takes those offices that are to reflect His gospel (Father; High Priest).

(i) The LORD takes serious how father discipline and instruct their children, because they are meant to reflect God the Father in their parenting.

- **Q.** Are you seeking to reflect God the Father in your parenting?
- **THE GOOD NEWS IS,** In Christ, we have a better Father than Eli; one who is not afraid to rebuke and discipline us for our good.

- **Hebrews 12:7-8, 11** "7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. . . . [God the Father] disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."
- **BOYS AND GIRLS, Dads are supposed to reflect the glory of God the Father to you, and God the Father disciplines and instructs His children.**

(ii) The LORD takes serious how the High Priest and his subservient priests served in the Temple, because they are meant to reflect God the Son in their service.

- **THE GOOD NEWS IS**, In Christ, we have a better Priest than Eli; one who will not kick at the Lord's sacrifice but became the Lord's sacrifice to rescue us from our sin and misery.
 - **Hebrews 9:24-26** "24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, 26 for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."
 - **BOYS AND GIRLS**, All the priests in the Old Testament, and all the animal sacrifices, are about Jesus. They show us that the wages of sin is death, and the only way we can be saved is by the High Priest offering up the Lamb of God to death in our place. This is what Jesus has done for sinners like us! Jesus is the Priest who offers the sacrifice, and He is the Lamb who is the sacrifice.

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

Kickat
Trample
Despise C.f. Hebrews 10:29

commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by

494x in the OT

Honor or
Glorify

prep

fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people

Best
i.e. fat

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,'

v. 29
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disdain (Be of little account)
scorn (Be slighted)
disrespect

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