

Series: 1 Samuel: The Chosen King II

Text: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

**HI: The Lord's answer to failing leaders is a faithful priest.**

Title: *Worthless Men and a Faithful Priest*

Hook: Pedigree and Prodigy

Date: 1.22.23

Purpose: To encourage God's people through contrasting the failure of sinful leaders with the ministry of the Great High Priest.

FCF: We are all too familiar with worthless men and failing leaders. The Lord meets us here, as he promises a faithful priest, one who will do his will, cover the sins of his people

COR: Sadly, those with any window into religion know that the scene of Eli's sons is all too familiar. We have all seen and been burnt by religious hypocrisy and depraved, selfish leaders. The Lord sees it as well. And he promises not only to judge the wicked, but to bring a faithful leader to save his people.

Witness of Christ [WC\*]: 2:25 and 2:35: The need for an intercessor + The faithful priest → Hebrews 7:22-28

Apologetic: The failing of religious leaders is one of the great stains on the reputation of the church. This failure has been happening for thousands of years. The Christian perspective is unique in this sense—it is not about man's search for or journey to God (as all other religions are), it is about God's constant pursuit and faithful provision for us, in his son, Jesus Christ—the only leader who has never failed.

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Psalm 108:3-5

Benediction: Hebrews 12:1-2 (begin in v. 1 at "Let us...")

Outline:

[READ 1 Samuel 2:12-26]

A. Eli's sons were worthless men. (12-17)

B. Samuel was an exceptional boy. (18-21, 26)

C. Eli was a failing father. (22-25)

**I. The darkness of man's perversion highlights the grace of God's provision. (12-26)**

D. As the priests fail, the Lord provides. (12-26)

[READ 1 Samuel 2:27-36]

**II. The Lord's judgment is true and his promise is sure. (27-36)**

A. The prophet exposes the priests as entitled and defiled. (27-29)

B. The priest's birthright would not lessen God's judgment. (30-36)

[HI]

**Main Idea:**

Subject: What will the Lord do in response to the corruption of his priesthood as manifested in Eli's house?

Complement: He will cut off the wicked priests and replace them with a faithful priest who will do his will.

Exegetical Idea: The Lord will cut off the corrupt priests of Eli's house and replace them with a faithful priest who will do his will.

Theological Idea: In a world of failing leaders, the Lord promises a faithful priest.

**Homiletical Idea: The Lord's answer to failing leaders is a faithful priest.**

**Introduction:**

READ 1 Samuel 2:12-26

<sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD.

<sup>13</sup> The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand,

<sup>14</sup> and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there.

<sup>15</sup> Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw."

<sup>16</sup> And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force."

<sup>17</sup> Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD with contempt.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.

<sup>19</sup> And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

<sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD." So then they would return to their home.

<sup>21</sup> Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people.

<sup>24</sup> No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad.

<sup>25</sup> If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to put them to death.

<sup>26</sup> Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.

## **I. The darkness of man's perversion highlights the grace of God's provision.** (12-26)

READ 1 Samuel 2:27-36

<sup>27</sup> 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?

<sup>28</sup> 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.

<sup>29</sup> 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?'

<sup>30</sup> 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.

<sup>31</sup> 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.

<sup>32</sup> 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.

<sup>33</sup> 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.

<sup>34</sup> 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.

<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> 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."""

## **II. The Lord's judgment is true and his promise is sure. (27-36)**

Eugene Peterson: "God's judgment always has a promise embedded in it."

## **III: The Lord's answer to failing leaders is a faithful priest.**

READ/EXPLAIN Hebrews 7:22-28

<sup>22</sup> This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

<sup>23</sup> The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office,

<sup>24</sup> but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

<sup>25</sup> Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

<sup>26</sup> For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

<sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

<sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.