

- I) V12-17 INTRO: Now the sons of Eli *were corrupt* they did not know the LORD
  - a) God established the priesthood under Moses, with the first High Priest being Aaron
    - 1) Aaron was from the tribe of Levi, and the priests were all to be from the tribe of Levi
  
- II) AS HIGH PRIEST: Eli had sons who also were priests, *but they were unsaved*
  - a) **CORRUPT**: Literally, sons of Belial (worthless, evil, ungodly, and evil)
    - 1) 2 Co 6:15 uses the word *Belial* for Satan
  
- III) THESE MEN: Were evil men who did not have a relationship with the Lord
  - a) **SADLY**: They were working in the tabernacle, but God had no influence upon their lives
    - 1) They did not know, worship, love, serve, fellowship with, or *fear God whatsoever*
  
- IV) HAVING NO FEAR OF GOD: Allowed them to sin without any concern for consequences
  - a) As far as they were concerned, they could do whatever they desired
    - 1) **KEY**: This lack of fear of the Lord is a chief earmark of someone who does not know God
    - 2) Ro 3:18 There is *no fear of God* before their eyes
  
- V) THIS LACK OF THE FEAR OF GOD: Allowed them to do the most sinful things without remorse
  - a) They did not have any concern for the consequences of their actions
    - 1) Pr 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge but fools despise wisdom and instruction
    - 2) Pr 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil
    - 3) Pr 10:27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, but the years of the wicked will be shortened.
  
- VI) A FRIEND OF MINE: Has a ministry of mentoring young people who desire to be worship leaders
  - a) He recently told me that the majority he meets with are looking for recording contracts
    - 1) Over 90% are looking for a career in music, *not the worship of God*
    - 2) One young man, *an unbeliever*, said he thought it was easier to break in as a gospel artist
  
- VII) WHEN YOU DO NOT FEAR GOD: Even *ministry itself* seems like an easy job to have
  - a) **SADLY**: These men did not know God, and because of this they sinned with no conscience
    - 1) **WHAT DID THEY DO?**
  
- VIII) V13-14 **FIRST**: They *stole from God and His people* by taking what did not belong to them
  - a) The Law of Moses made provision for them through the offerings
    - 1) Dt 18:1-5 The priests, the Levites--all the tribe of Levi--shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel; they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and His portion. Therefore they shall have no inheritance among their brethren; *the LORD is their inheritance*, as He said to them (Nu 18:20). And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from those who offer a sacrifice, whether *it is* bull or sheep: they shall give to the priest the shoulder, the cheeks, and the stomach. The firstfruits of your grain and your new wine and your oil, and the first of the fleece of your sheep, you shall give him. For the LORD your God has chosen him out of all your tribes to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons forever.
  
- IX) **FACT**: By using the fleshhook, they took what belonged to the person *making the offering*
  - a) What belonged to them as priests was the right shoulder and what was called the wave breast
    - 1) They simply took what they wanted, demanding for themselves what belonged to others
    - 2) For them, ministry was simply a way for them to eat and live well, at the expense of others
    - 3) 2 Pe 2:3 (False believers) by covetousness...*will make merchandise of you* with deceptive words

- I) V15-16 SECOND: They took the meat *before the fat* had been burned
  - a) The burning of the fat actually was an *offering to the Lord*, and was to take place first
    - 1) THIS PORTION: Belonged to God, because the fat represented the best part of the sacrifice
    - 2) SADLY: With no fear of God, it was easy for them to steal from the Lord
  
- II) KEY: The burning of the fat was a picture of a *complete consecration* of the offering to God
  - a) JESUS: Represents this best offering
    - 1) Eph 5:2 Walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and *given Himself for us*, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a *sweet-smelling aroma*.
  
- III) V16-17 AND: If the man said to him They should really burn the fat first
  - a) INTERESTINGLY: People would actually *correct them* by appealing to *God's Word*
    - 1) Lev 3:3-5 He shall offer from the sacrifice of the peace offering an offering made by fire to the LORD. *The fat* that covers the entrails and all the fat that *is* on the entrails, the two kidneys and the fat that *is* on them by the flanks, and the fatty lobe *attached* to the liver above the kidneys, he shall remove; *and Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt sacrifice, which is on the wood that is on the fire, as an offering made by fire, a sweet aroma to the LORD.*
  
- IV) THIRD: Their ungodly lives caused people to *turn away from God*
  - a) When people associated with God disregard the things of God, people are stumbled
    - 1) Beliefs are always evidenced by consistent behavior
  
- V) FACT: Some people's lives are so attractive that people desire to know God because of them
  - a) Sometimes our lives actually cause people to want to come to know the Lord through us
    - 1) Eph 2:10 We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *for good works*, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
    - 2) Tit 2:14 (Jesus) gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His own special people, zealous for good works.*
  
- VI) V17 IMPORTANT: The sin was *very great* before the Lord *for men abhorred* the offering of the LORD
  - a) Their sin stumbled people and caused them to turn away from the Lord
    - 1) This is a sin that God does not take lightly: sometimes professing believers should be quiet!
    - 2) Mt 18:6 Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.
  
- VII) SKIP TO V22-26 NOW: *Eli was very old* and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel
  - a) According to 1 Sa 4:15, Eli died when he was 98 years old: at this time, he was around 80
    - 1) Interestingly, he did not ignore their sins, but they ignored him
  
- VIII) HE HAD HEARD: Of what his sons were guilty of doing
  - a) Added to their other sins, they were having sex with the women *who were serving the Lord*
    - 1) Ex 38:8 speaks of these women as *serving women* who assembled at the door of the tabernacle
    - 2) Some think they assembled there for purposes of devotion; and others, that they kept watch there during the night
  
- IX) SIN: These men took advantage of the women who assembled at the door to serve the Lord
  - a) They used their religious position and power to seduce and use the women for their own pleasure
  
- I) TAKING ADVANTAGE: Of a woman and using them in this fashion is a great sin

- a) It is a sin against God, the woman, and the man she will eventually marry
  - 1) 1 Co 6:18-20 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
  
- II) V23-24 SO: *He said to them* Why do you do such things? For *I hear of your evil dealings* from all
  - a) These kinds of sins are not hidden for long: the people coming to Shiloh began to speak of them
    - 1) They were stumbled by what they heard and saw, and began to take God's law lightly
    - 2) This is what happens when those claiming to be Christian live in an ungodly way
    - 3) Ro 2:24 *the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you*, as it is written.
  
- III) V25 IF ONE MAN SINS: Against another God will judge him. But if a man sins against the LORD
  - a) NOTICE: As their father, he loves them and is gentle in his rebuke
    - 1) QUOTE: He contented himself with a verbal rebuke, and did not restrain them, and inflict those punishments upon them which such high crimes deserved by God's law, and which he as judge and high-priest ought to have done, without respect of persons.
  
- IV) POINT: If two people get in an argument, a mediator can settle the problem fairly
  - a) THOUGHT: God is the righteous Judge guiding the decision
    - 1) Your problem *is with God*, and He sees all things, so you have no chance of innocence
  
- V) V25 NEVERTHELESS: *They did not heed* the voice of their father because the Lord desired to kill them
  - a) His rebuke made no difference because they *were already given up* because of hardness of heart
    - 1) Nothing said to them would change their minds or hearts, and God had already judged them
  
- VI) RETURN TO: V18-21 BUT: Samuel ministered before the LORD even as a child wearing a linen ephod
  - a) CONTRAST: The evil sons bring dishonor to God, but Samuel is protected from their influence
    - 1) Samuel is in the same environment, but he innocently goes about his duties
    - 2) The ephod is clothing of a priest, and identifies him as one in service to God
  
- VII) HIS MOTHER AND FATHER: Visited him and continued their paternal relationship with him
  - a) This is simply a touching reminder of her love for her son, and her devotion to the Lord
    - 1) V20-21 God received the son she dedicated to Him, and now He gives her children to keep
  
- VIII) V21 MEANWHILE: The child Samuel grew before the Lord
  - a) In spite of the corrupt environment, Samuel matured and grew
    - 1) He was not caused to become cynical or to reject God, but remained innocent of evil
  
- IX) V26 AND: The child Samuel grew in stature and in favor both with the LORD and men
  - a) In the same environment, under the same conditions, influenced by the same man
    - 1) The two sons are corrupt, but the little boy grows to serve the LORD
    - 2) Which kind of child are we?