

Who Are We Raising?

(Generation Lost or Generation Saved)

8.11.24

1 Samuel 2: ²² Now Eli was very old. He heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they were sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ²³ He said to them, “Why are you doing these things? I have heard about your evil actions from all these people. ²⁴ No, my sons, the news I hear the Lord’s people spreading is not good. ²⁵ If one person sins against another, God can intercede for him, but if a person sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?” But they would not listen to their father, since the Lord intended to kill them. ²⁶ By contrast, the boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

I. The contrast in the kids. 3 sons.....

A. Obedience

--Hophni and Phineas actively disobeyed

2: ¹² Eli’s sons were wicked men; they did not respect the Lord

--Disregard the rules for sacrifices

^{2:17} So the servants’ sin was very severe in the presence of the Lord, because the men treated the Lord’s offering with contempt.

--Sexually active with the females

2: ²² Now Eli was very old. He heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they were sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

--Samuel actively served the Lord

2: ¹⁸ Samuel served in the Lord’s presence—this mere boy was dressed in the linen ephod.

B. Legacy

-- Hophni and Phineas did not leave a legacy of good

2: ³¹ Look, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your forefather's family, so that none in your family will reach old age.

3: ¹³ I told him that I am going to judge his family forever because of the iniquity he knows about: his sons are cursing God,^[c] and he has not stopped them.

4: ¹¹ The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phineas, died

--Samuel left a deep and rich legacy of faith

3: ²⁰ All Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a confirmed prophet of the Lord.

II. Why the difference?

A. Hannah was intentional. Eli was passive.

2: ²³ He said to them, "Why are you doing these things? I have heard about your evil actions from all these people.

B. Hannah prayed. Eli assumed.

^{2:28} Out of all the tribes of Israel, I chose your house^[g] to be my priests, to offer sacrifices on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your forefather's family all the Israelite food offerings.

III. What can we do to raise a Samuel and not a Hophni and Phineas

We are one generation away from ending our legacy of faith.

A. Observations

--Not an expert but rather just biblical encouragement.

--This is not just for parents.

There is good news!

B. How can we avoid losing a generation from faith?

Communicate with kindness

Teach them

Duet 6: ⁴“Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol^[b] on your forehead.^[c] ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

Practically

Biblically

We can admit our failures

Take their questions!

The heart of discipleship today is explanation. -
JamesEmeryWhite

Pay attention to their influencers.

Balance grace and truth

Eph 6:4 Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Surround them with a faith community.

Support church youth programs financially.

Volunteer for church youth programs

Pray for church youth programs

Close:

Judges 2:10-12 (GNT)

¹⁰That whole generation also died, and the next generation forgot the LORD and what he had done for Israel.