

# SKYLINE

#### I Enable Bad Behavior

Pastor Ben Sigman

I instruct you in the way of wisdom and lead you along straight paths. When you walk, your steps will not be hampered; when you run, you will not stumble.

PROVERBS 4:11-12 (NIV)

To enable – To offer the W R O N G kind of help

# A CAUTIONARY TALE FOR THE WELL INTENTIONED

Eli and His Sons

Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD.

I SAMUEL 2:12 (NIV)

If the person said to him (Eli's son), "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.

I SAMUEL 2:16-17 (NIV)

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

I SAMUEL 2:22 (NIV)

So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the LORD's people is not good.

I SAMUEL 2:23-24 (NIV)

Why do you honor your sons more than me...

I SAMUEL 2:29 (NIV)

#### A DANGEROUS PATTERN

- 1 He was aware of A PROBLEM (I Samuel 2:16)
- 2 A L L O W E D it to get worse
  (I Samuel 2:22)
- 3 Took solace in HALF MEASURES
  (I Samuel 2:24,29)
- 4 Surprised at the EVENTUAL OUTCOME (I Samuel 4:17)
- 5 Ended up as COLLATERAL DAMAGE (I Samuel 4:18)

[Eli] fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man, and he was heavy. He had led Israel forty years.

I SAMUEL 4:18 (NIV)

#### FOUR COURAGEOUS CHOICES

## 1 A C K N O W L E D G E the open secret

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

I JOHN 6-8 (NIV)

## 2 Don't let F E A R make your decisions

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

PROVERBS 29:25 (NIV)

### 3 A D M I T where you're helping as hurt

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

**JAMES 5:16 (NIV)** 

### 4 B E L I E V E that God can make a difference

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

MATTHEW 19:25-26 (NIV)

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