

# HONOR THE LORD

By Pastor Rene Lussier

- *Show me the man you honor and I will know what kind of man you are. - Thomas Carlyle*
- *It is better to deserve honors and not have them than to have them and not deserve them. - Mark Twain*

STORY OF 2 FAMILIES and their relation to the Lord...

1<sup>st</sup> part—1 Samuel 1,2—Elkana, his 2 wives - Peninah had children- Hannah-no child.

## WHAT KIND OF DEVOTION DO WE SEE IN THEM.

1Sam 1:3 (NIV) **Year after year** this man went up from his town to **worship** and **sacrifice to the LORD** Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD.

- They went the distance YEAR AFTER YEAR to worship
- We see here the 2<sup>nd</sup> family- Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the LORD

4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters.

- We need to talk about the **sacrifice** that was part of the **worship** The Lord required from the worshippers.
- They would bring offerings and animals to be slaughtered and would boil the meat.
- One part for the Lord, one part for the priest and one part for the worshippers, (called a sacrifice of communion)

5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the LORD had closed her womb

- He loved her and he wanted to honor her and to comfort her...

6 And because the LORD had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her .

7 This went on **year after year**. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the LORD, her rival provoked her till she **wept** and would **not eat**.

- **Year after year**—meant that for a long time “years”, She’s been waiting for a child and she may have felt forsaken by the Lord
- Even though she received a double portion, she was so sad, she wouldn’t eat, just cry

8 Elkanah her husband would say to her, "Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don't you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than ten sons?"

- A good husband-sensitive- trying to understand & comfort his wife.
  - *(One of my favorite verse! :)*

1Sam 1:9 (NIV) **Once** when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up . Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the LORD's temple. {[9] That is, tabernacle}

- **One time, she stood up-** observe the expressions describing her emotions and her faith...

10 In **bitterness of soul** Hannah **wept much** and **prayed to the LORD**.

11 And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you will only look upon your servant's **misery** and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head."

12 As she kept on **praying to the LORD**, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. **Eli thought she was drunk**

1Sam 1:15 (NIV) "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied, "I am a woman who is deeply troubled I have not been drinking wine or beer; **I was pouring out my soul to the LORD**.

16 Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; **I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief."**

- V. 17 - Eli spoke a **prophetic blessing**... A prayer with a prophetic element...
- *Prophecy is an important part of corporate worship... (The last Sunday Suzanne was here, we prayed for Suzanne)... Many words were spoken as an encouragement, and exhortation to her... When we talked with her on the phone, she even brought it up...*

17 Eli answered, "*Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.*"

18 She said, "May your servant find favor in your eyes." Then she went her way and **ate something, and her face was no longer downcast**.

- **Why wasn't she sad anymore?**
- She received it by faith. It was a **Rhema**- a personalized promise of God to her, that enlightened her heart. This can change someone's heart and attitude...
- *This you can receive in your time with God, searching the Lord...*

19 Early the next morning they arose and **worshiped before the LORD** and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah lay with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her.

- You will often see the expression **“Worship, sacrifice to the Lord, praying to the Lord”** associated with Elkanah and *Hannah*...

20 So in the course of time **Hannah conceived** and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, **“Because I asked the LORD for him.”**

- **SAMUEL**—Heb. “Shama” To hear, perceive, listen” and El- God (refers to the strength of God...

### WHAT A WONDERFUL STORY!

1Sam 1:24 (NKJV) Now when she had weaned him, **she took him up** with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And the child [was] young.

- How difficult it must have been... She took him up and brought him to the house of the Lord.
- She gave more to the Lord than what she promised... (3 bulls, 22 liters of flour and wine)
- Both she and her husband were generous and **wanted to honor the Lord**...with their wealth...

Prov 3:9 (NIV) Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops;

25 When they had slaughtered the bull, they brought the boy to Eli, (*They first sacrifice to the Lord, then...*)

- After they sacrificed to the Lord...
- She gives her testimony to honor the Lord

26 and she said to him, "As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you **praying** to the LORD. 27 I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him.

28 So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he will be given over to the LORD." And [**he, they**] **worshiped the LORD there.**

### CHAPTER 2

...**Then Hannah prayed**—**KEY WORD** about Hannah- a beautiful psalm that even inspired the virgin Mary when she met Elizabeth...

- She expresses the character of God...stressing how God lifts up the humble, care for the weak and the poor, gives children to the barren.

**Hannah** knew this from experience in her life. She considered that she was barren because the LORD had closed her womb (1 Samuel 1:6).

- She understood The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.
- **God had first set her low, and now he had lifted her head high**. She could see the hand of the LORD in it all.
- It is not by strength that one prevails...

1Sam 2:11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the LORD under Eli the priest.

- Even if he was young, Samuel could serve the LORD.
- Young people can praise God and please God and worship Him, and it is often a breakthrough in their walk with God when they experience God in worship.
- The Living Bible translates it well: **And the child became the Lord's helper**. There are ways that even children can serve God and minister to Him.
- **WHAT A MODEL THEY GIVE TO US**—Parents and children walking with the Lord...

**Pastoral Call-** *A minister received a call from a church that offered him a salary four times what he was then receiving. Being a godly man, he spent much time in prayer trying to discern what God wanted him to do.*

*One day a friend met the pastor's young son on the street. "Do you know what your dad is going to do?" he asked. "Well," replied the youngster, "Dad's praying, but Mom's packing!"*

### FROM CHAPTER 2:12 A PICTURE OF ELI'S FAMILY

1Sam 2:12 (NIV) Eli's sons were **wicked** men; they had **no regard** [respect] **for the LORD**. [they did not know the lord and could not have cared less]

- **They did not know the LORD**: Even though their father Eli knew the LORD, that knowledge was not passed on genetically to the sons of Eli.
- It can be a difficult thing for a child to come to a true knowledge of the LORD when they have grown up in a Christian home.

- They just kind of assume they know the LORD because mom and dad do.
- And knowing *about* the LORD isn't enough.

### Verses 13-17 explain how they showed no regard for the Lord (dishonored him)

13 Now it was the practice of the priests with the people that whenever anyone offered a sacrifice and **while the meat was being boiled** the servant of the priest would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand. 14 He would plunge it into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot, and the priest would take for himself whatever the fork brought up. This is how **they treated all the Israelites** who came to Shiloh. 15 But **even before the fat was burned**, the servant of the priest would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw." 16 If the man said to him, "Let the fat be burned up first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would then answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force." 17 This **sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight, for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.** [

1Sam 2:17 (NKJV) ...for **men** abhorred the offering of the Lord.

- The greatness of the sin of Eli's sons was found in this - that they, through their greed, violence, and intimidation, made others not want to come and bring offerings to the LORD.

1Sam 2:22 (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 [assembled] at the entrance** to the Tent of Meeting.

- He heard about the things his sons were doing.
- He knew about it- done nothing- now people were complaining to him about it...
- The great sins of Eli's sons (4) were that they stole from God's people (1 Samuel 2: 12-17), despised the offerings of the Lord, caused the people to despise the Lord's offerings and they committed sexual immorality with women who came to worship at the tabernacle.

23 So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. 24 No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear spreading among the LORD's people.

1Sam 2:24 (NKJV) "No, my sons! For [it] [is] not a good report that I hear. **You make the Lord's people transgress.**

- How did he deal with it?
- Eli did about the worst thing a parent can do in trying to correct their children: *just talk*.
- All he did was whine about what they were doing wrong, but he **never took the necessary actions** to correct the problem.
- Now he was old; for years he had neglected discipline in bringing up his sons.
- Parents would be better off to yell less, lecture less, and to take sensible action
- **Why do you do such things?** It is such a useless question. Who cares why?
- They could not be excused of their sinful behavior, instead they had to bear the consequence of it..
- **You make the LORD's people to transgress:** Again, this was the great sin of Eli's sons. It was bad enough that they stole and indulged their own lusts;
- but they also, by their corrupt behavior, made people hate to worship God with their offerings at the tabernacle (1 Samuel 2: 17), and they led women worshippers into sexual immorality.
- Eli asked the question as an argument... Who will intercede for him?

25 If a man sins against another man, God may mediate for him; but if a man sins against the LORD, who will intercede for him?" **His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke,** for it was the LORD's will to put them to death.

### V. 27 THERE CAME A MAN OF GOD

- Review God's goodness toward Eli's family.

1Sam 2:27 (NIV) Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the LORD says: `Did I not clearly reveal myself to your father's house when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?"

28 **I chose your father out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest,** to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. **I also gave your father's house all the offerings** made with fire by the Israelites.

29 **Why do you scorn [kick] my sacrifice** and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? **Why do you honor your sons more than me** by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?"

- **Why do you kick at My sacrifice:**
- The rebuke was addressed to Eli instead of his sons...

- (Some thinks that... because God would bring him to repentance and save him; not to his sons, whom he had determined to destroy.
- But we do not find it had any great effect upon him.
- **YOU- (PLURAL)**- It would have been easy for Eli to say, "I'm not doing it! My sons are!"
- But Eli had a double accountability for his sons, both as a **father** (though this was diminished because the sons were adults), and as **the High Priest**.
- His sons "worked" for him as a priests, and Eli was their "boss." And HE was accountable to God
- **And honor your sons more than Me**: Since Eli would not correct his sons the way he should, either as a father or as a head over them, **he was essentially preferring them to the LORD.**
- If He would have been more afraid of offending God, and less afraid of offending his sons, **he would have corrected them.**
- **MH\_C-** SUGGESTS that Eli himself, though he disagreed with the sins they committed, yet did not restrain himself from eating of the stolen roast meat they were getting, 1 Samuel 2:15. He was a **heavy man** (1 Samuel 4:18),
- and the text suggest strongly the accusation of **"fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering"** was addressed to them all... V. 29
- **The promise to Eli V. 30 was intended to be for ever. WHAT A PRIVILEGE!**
- **Observe the condition of the promise**

1Sam 2:30 (NKJV) "... `I said indeed [that] your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the Lord says: `Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.

- The promise carried its own condition along with it: *They shall walk before me forever*, that is,
- "they shall have the honour,-with the condition that- they faithfully do the service." *Walking before God* is the great condition of the covenant, Genesis 17:1.
  - They despised this honor that God granted them...
- The Lord changed his mind about his promise to Eli. (Not that he is unfaithful and not keep his promise, but that his promises are consistent with his nature and character).
- **God gives a good reason for rejecting them, and also set the rule of His government, by which all men must expect to be dealt with...**

**...for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed....**

(1) God is the source of honour and dishonour; he can exalt the meanest and put contempt upon the greatest.

(2.) Fortunately, God is merciful and we can expect him to deal with us more favourably than we deserve. See Psalms 18:25,26.

Psalms 18:25 (NKJV) With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; 26 With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd.

Psalms 103:10 (NKJV) He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.

Psalms 130:3 (NIV) If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.

#### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE TWO FAMILIES?**

The purity and service of Samuel and his family is a contrast to the evil character of Eli's sons.

Every time we read about Samuel and his family, we see true worshippers. **Key words-** (*sacrifice before the Lord, praying before the Lord, ministering before the Lord*)

- Even though these wicked priests were bad representative of the priesthood, **they kept their eyes on the Lord and year after year, they continued to honor God and bring sacrifices** (generous)

1Sam 2:11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy **ministered before the LORD** under Eli the priest.

1Sam 2:18 But Samuel was **ministering before the LORD**--a boy wearing a linen ephod.

- **Why was Samuel godly and Eli's sons were not?** It might be easy to say it was because Samuel grew up in a godly home and Eli's sons did not.
- But Eli does not seem to have been a particularly bad parent, though he obviously did some things wrong (as stated in the rest of the chapter).

- No, it would be wrong to give Eli all the blame for his sons, or to give Hannah all the credit for Samuel. After all the parenting is done, even good parenting, There is still a significant part of responsibility that is left to the free will of the child.
- **Wearing a linen ephod:** Samuel's service was exceptional enough that he was given a linen ephod, which was a priestly garment (Exodus 39:27-29).
- **What did Samuel do?** "He did small charges, as setting up lights, laying up vestments, learning music, or the like."

19 Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice.

- **His mother used to make him a little robe:** How beautiful! Only someone who was really there would describe such a small detail. Though Hannah gave her little boy to the LORD, she never stopped loving him.

20 **Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the LORD give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to the LORD."** Then they would go home.

- Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife... they were faithful, generous...

21 **And the LORD was gracious to Hannah; she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters.** Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

- GRACIOUS- God honors those who honors Him ...She conceived 3 sons and 2 daughters...
  - **For many years, even though she was godly and honored the Lord, it seemed that she may have been forsaken by the Lord.**
  - **But God at the appointed time, honors her because she honored him.**
- Hannah became an example to every generation after her.
- How many Jewish and Christian families have called their daughter by her name...
 

God will never be a debtor to anyone. Hannah could never say to the LORD, "I gave you my son, but what did you give me?" because God gave her much.

1Sam 2:26 (NIV) And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the LORD and with men

- What a contrast to the wickedness of Eli's sons! This shows that although Eli was far from a perfect father, he was not a totally bad father, because he essentially fathered Samuel and Samuel grew up to be a godly man.

1Sam 3:1 (NIV) **The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.**

(Beginning of Samuel's ministry as one of the greatest prophet Israel ever had)

### **WHAT IS GOD'S WILL AND DESIRE FOR HIS SERVANT?**

1Sam 2:35 (NIV) **I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind I will firmly establish his house, and he will minister before my anointed one always.**

- Is this not why God raised up Samuel, because of the corruption of Eli's sons?
- Ultimately, corrupt ministers do not stop- the work of God.

### **CONCLUSION**

**Do I make the honor of God the great object of my life and the rule of my conduct?** If so, He will honor me.

- Maybe you don't see now that God honors you. You may be like Hannah waiting for God to answer your prayer, to intervene, to show himself in your circumstances, feeling forsaken by God.
- Believe the promise of God, even if it means that for a time you may be put to shame because you want to live a godly life, or if it means to wait for the Lord, or it means a time of adversity.
- HONOR GOD AND GOD WILL HONOR YOU...
- If you want your family to be honored, you must honor the Lord in all things. God may allow the wicked to win worldly honors; but the true honor, glory and immortality that God gives, He reserves for those who take care to honor Him.

- **What can I do this day to honor the Lord?**

I can honor him with my testimony, ... with my obedience to his will, ... with my wealth, ... with my special service, Let us meditate and think how we can honor Him, since He will honor us .

J. S. Bach said, "All music should have no other end and aim than the glory of God and the soul's refreshment; where this is not remembered there is no real music but only a devilish hub-bub." He headed his compositions: "J. J." "Jesus Juva" which means "Jesus help me."

**He ended them "S. D. G." "Soli Dei gratia" which means "To God alone the praise." J. S. Bach**