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Old Testament Literature

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Life Of Samuel

Eli was a Prophet of the Lord. Devoted to God and serving at the temple to deliver the word of the Lord to those that came with prayers and sacrifice. Hannah came with sorrow and pain for her inability to bear children. On oath she has spoken to deliver a child to the Lord. Soon after the Lord has heard her prayer and Eli was entrusted to watch over the boy Samuel who the Lord has chosen to be a priest. The Good that Eli has done here was that he watched over Samuel as he grew and taught him the ways of the Lord.

Eli also had two other sons who were wicked in the eyes of the Lord. They constantly provoked and threatened anyone to take their sacrifice by force. The two sons were abuse their position as priests to obtain personal desires through food. Samuel taking notice of this rebuked their actions against the Lord. But the two sons payed no mind in what their father. Elis mistake here was not rebuking them but that he had neglected to discipline his children for their wrong doing.

He knew very well what kind of evils being committed before God and he yet neglected to show proper discipline to his sons. Mathew 10:37 “ Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who’s loves their son

or daughter more than me is not worthy of me". God clearly commands that anyone true follower of God must trust and love the Lord and Eli although was a great servant of God still did not obey this command. Overall Eli seemed to be both good and bad in character. He teaches us that man need to trust and have faith in God with more certainty than the things we see with our eyes. But the same time he did not perform well as a father to teach his children properly.

The most important thing to notice is no not matter how close we think we are with God it still takes effort. Jesus commanded us in (Mathew 16: 24-26) That if anyone would come after me let him deny himself pick up his cross and follow me. Man will constantly have to endure the pains of the world like Jesus and persevere. Eli should've been more strict with his children and not neglected discipline.