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Old Testament Literature

Written Assignment Two

Eli's story entails many important pointers and highlights one of the Bible's greatest judges and prophets. As the priest of his time, he had that phenomenal responsibility to oversee all the religious aspects of their lifestyle. Eli was taxed with the responsibility of not just leading the nation and carrying out their spiritual requirements, but he was also placed in a position of trying to make his own family life up to the requirements of God.

Throughout Eli's life, he served as a priest and did several good things that stand out in the bible. He served at that critical time of Hannah's life when the Lord had shut up her womb and her rival Peninnah mocked her consistently. One day, Hannah poured out her heart to the Lord, and it was after that Eli gave her a blessing and assured her that God would cause her to conceive. Upon fulfilling the word, Hannah carried Samuel and loaned him to the Lord as she promised. Eli took Samuel into his care as if he were his own and trained and nurtured him in the ways of the Lord. This training later contributed to the greatness God called Samuel, and he lived an exemplary life for God and efficiently carried out His work.

Despite all the good Eli did as a priest and trainer, he also had his share of bad deeds. Eli's sons Hophni and Phinehas dishonored God in so many ways. They did not do this just once but consistently carried out their ungodly conduct before God. Hophni and Phinehas defiled God's altar and the offering which was being sacrificed. They took part in sexual acts with different women, and they were blasphemed. The natural reaction of a priest toward all this would be punishment and possible death. However, that was not the stand that Eli took. Eli spoke to his sons, and told them that they were wrong, but he did not pass on the judgment to them that they deserved. Not only did Eli not punish his sons but he was also punished because He did not live up to his responsibility as a priest to ensure the sanctification of the altar.

In my view, Eli was a good character throughout most of this story. I know many people have painted a bad picture of Eli because of his mess-ups, but I don't believe this is a completely accurate display of his character. This should not be the case, but many of us if we were put in a situation, possibly would have done something similar.

The lesson I can learn for application to the Christian walk today is that there should be no compromise when it comes on to the things of God. There is also that lesson as a leader to ensure that one should live up to your responsibilities. The task that has been given to us as a leader, is imperative that we carry it out to the best of our ability. Also, to guard that which the Lord has given us or place within us.