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Eli was the priest that stayed in the doorpost of the Lord's House. Eli was important to the Israelites because he judged them. The first introduction of Eli is when Hannah approaches the Lord's House. Hannah was deeply sorrowful and went to pray to the Lord, and that is when Eli saw her. At first, Eli believed that Hannah was drunk because she was praying but her words were not escaping her mouth. (1Sam 1:13) This led to his encounter with Hannah and Hannah's problem. Eli ends their quick conversation by wishing her well and being in her favor. (1Sam 1:17)

First Eli questions Hannah at the Lord's House when she approaches in despair, praying to God and weeping. After Hannah explains her appearance, Eli hopes for her and says "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of Him". (1Sam 1:17) Samuel was eventually born and grew up in the presence of the Lord. Samuel began ministering under Eli. This was a good thing for Samuel, as it helped him become a man of God. When the Lord calls out to Samuel three times, Eli advises Samuel to "say 'Speak Lord, for your servant, is listening'" (1Sam 3:9). The final evidence of Eli being good is when he says "He is the Lord: let him do what is good in his eyes" (1Sam 3:18). Eli continues to care for Samuel and know that the Lord is sovereign.

Eli was not able to teach his own sons the ways of the Lord but was able to teach Samuel to do so. If Eli had as much dedication to his sons like he had to Samuel, his sons would have probably been saved from their evil doings. It is as if Eli's sons were not raised in the presence of God. Samuel was offered to serve God by Samuel's mother, Hannah, Therefore, Samuel's life was dedicated before he was even born. If Eli had those same intentions, the sons would have been on a different, and better path. (1Sam 3:1) In addition, Eli was more in the favor of his sons, rather than with the Lord's. A man of God came to Eli and spoke to him about how Eli was honoring his sons rather than honoring Him because Eli "scorned" His sacrifice. (1Sam 2:29).

I believe that Eli is a good character. The Lord was going to put Eli's sons to death because of their wickedness. However, Eli warned and rebuked them for what they were doing. Eli loved his sons and did not want them to die. However, he was deceived by his own heart. Eli was already "old and weak" when he heard of the evil deeds that his sons were doing. (1Sam 2:22) Eli lived many years serving the Lord as a priest.

In the Christian walk, dedication to the Lord must always come first. Friends and family come after God, and just because you love them, does not mean that you should judge them

righteously for their wrong doings. (1Sam 2:27) God revealed himself to Eli, and had told him that He was dishonored by him. Being passive, especially with the Lord, is not the way to live. Eli was passive when he just rebuked his sons. Eli knew that his sons were not going to listen, and he still did not do as much as he could have done to actively correct and instruct them. In many ways, I have been leading my life in a passive manner. With the hard truth, I have learned that passivity is not the path to serving God well. To serve God well, you must be proactive. Eli was only proactive when he forced Samuel to tell him about the vision he had. (1Sam 3:17).

Eli was given many opportunities to do good by his name. As a priest who spent his life in the Lord's House, was aware of how God handles those who disobey and dishonor His name. Eli was a helpful man when it came to Hannah, by wishing her well to bore a son. Later, that same son became like a son to Eli. Samuel, although technically not Eli's son, was the only son that was obedient to the Lord. Eli and his son's consequence led to Eli's life being cut short, as well as all in priestly house to never reach old age. This teaches us be proactive, honorable, and well steward's of God's plan.