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1 Samuel 1-3 Paper #2

There is something so special about fully giving yourself to the Lord and letting him have the reins and giving him the control over your life. Giving the Lord control and surrendering our life is a constant battle. This goes back to our prayer life. We should have one before we really need one and are in dire need of the Lords rescuing. For some christians, I would say I used to be in this category, only starting praying to God when we want something or are in crisis. The thing we have to remember is we can take up everything to God no matter how miniscule or large it might be, and it is okay to be specific with our wants just as Hannah did. We have to build a constant relationship with the Lord, not a one time interaction. The story in 1 Samuel firstly reminded me exactly of this relationship of how Hannah was constantly speaking to God and taking up her concerns and wants for a child. Even though it took a while she did not give up and persisted and the Lord provided a way and used Eli as a part of that plan. Then secondly the story reminded me to give thanks to the Lord and remember to recognize all that he has done and provided a way. The Lord did so much to provide for Eli and I think at times he did not take time to realize just that. I am going to explore some of the things that Eli did good and bad, and the consequences when we do not honor the Lord.

One thing to remember is no matter how hard times are, the Lord will always provide. He provided Hannah with a son who went by the name of Samuel and as she promised the Lord she

gave her son to the Lord. Hannah went and gave her son to the Lord and Eli was the priest so he looked after him and brought him up. Eli did right by Samuel teaching him the importance of serving the people and doing right by God. He also was good in the sense that he was obedient in honoring God by looking after Samuel and raising him up so that he may serve and do good. Eli also continuously blessed Hannah and her family each time they visited.

Even though Eli honored the Lord in his calling to raise up Samuel to serve, he neglected to look closely after his own sons who were to serve the Lord in the same way as Samuel. The Lord specifically chose Eli and set him apart, to serve him and be the priest who is at the altar, and to take the sacrifice from the people. The Lord saved his ancestors under the rule of pharaoh and saved them, so the Lord helped Eli out and in return in my opinion he did not hold up his end. One of the ways he was not good is in regards to his two sons. He was able to teach Samuel the ways of how to treat people and how to properly take a sacrifice. There was a certain practice of how the sacrifice would be taken. His two sons disrespected the Lord as well as the people when they presented their sacrifice. Also his sons were sleeping with women who were serving at the entrance of the tents, they were going about all of Israel not doing right by the Lord. Eli was made aware of this all he did was speak to his sons and tell them to stop. He needed to give them a punishment to stop. I feel like Eli knew what was happening was bad and there was no coming back so in return he gave his all into raising up Samuel.

After all of this I do not believe that Eli is bad; he honored the Lord in taking in Samuel and raising him to do good. The Lord recognized that Eli could do good things that is why he made him a priest. I do think his sons might have been jealous of Samuel in some regards, and in rebellion of trying to get their fathers attention decided to act out. In return their acting ended

very poorly but at the end of the day Eli raised Samuel to do good things, because Samuel was an answer to prayer for Hannah and was brought to do good work.