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Assignment 2: The Life Of Eli

Eli was a high priest and ignorant man. He ignored problems with the hope that they would fix themselves. . During the times of the judges people came to worship God from everywhere and Eli was always ready for them yet never defended them from his sons. . He put so much attention on the people of Israel and neglected his sons and their well being in God. I believe Eli departed from the ways of God even before his own sons did. He had the right position and heritage but lacked discipline in managing his home. God impressed on Eli the importance of educating his sons to put God first but he refused to educate and discipline them.

The consequences thereof were Eli's sons becoming Priests that rejected Gods principles. They had no respect for the offerings brought to the tabernacle by faithful Israelites. The Bible says their sin was great in the Lords sight for they were treating the Lords offering with contempt. Treating the Lord's offerings with contempt showed that these young men had no respect for God nor the people who gave the offerings. God did not take that lightly and eventually both of his sons were killed by the philistines.

The lessons one can gather from Eli is that ignoring Gods' instructions can be detrimental to us and our children. To be able to lead your home as a servant of God is important before we can

even attempt to lead the masses. If we neglect our own homes yet show up for everybody else we have missed an important part of leading by example. Eli ignored the sins of his sons and pretended it was not much of an issue. In the end God caused His whole family to suffer. The consequences that came upon Eli and his family were fair because God warned them and they knew the truth. We will always be held accountable for the truth we know and because God is a gracious God, He will give us warnings before handing us over to our foolishness. The sons of Eli not only mishandled Gods offerings but the Ark of the covenant. When the Israelites were attacked they decided to take it with them to the battlefield believing that God would fight for them. We often disobey and dishonor God yet force Him to come to our rescue.

We can not take things that are precious to God and try to use them for our own purposes. We also can not force a Holy God to support our unholy lives. Just as in the family of Eli we may begin well but if we become complacent in our walk with God, His Glory will eventually depart from us. The whole nation of Israel was scattered and the family of Eli was destroyed, our disobedience does not only affect us but affects those who are around us and those we are sent to. God takes sin seriously and that is why He gave us His only begotten son so we would be saved. .

We all have sinful ways and hearts that separate us from the glory of God just like the Israelites but God offered us the gift of salvation. This whole family did not follow the Lords appointed authority in their life but rather were self indulgent. As Christians when we are self indulgent and fleshy our end will always be destruction. Reading the first three chapters of Samuel may cause one to believe that Eli was a victim to his disobedient sons yet he was a participant and an

enabler of the disorder. He put his kids before God which many Christians do in our day. Family is a gift from God but it should in no way be honored above God and His Word. Eli began well, he was a good teacher and leader to some but not to all. This means it possible to be inconsistent as a leader and we should pray for Grace to become leaders by example. Many of us start well but end in disgrace because of ignorance.

Works Cited