

Two Lessons from 1st Samuel

Intro:

- (1) There are a number of important lessons in 1st Samuel
- (2) Today I want to touch on two.

I. Poor Fathers

- (1) Isn't it sad that both Eli and Samuel were poor
?
- (2) The sons of Eli (priest at Shiloh)
had no regard for the Lord, 1 Sam 2:12 Belial - the devil or one of his devils.
had contempt for Lord's offering, 1 Sam 2:13-17
fornicators, 1 Sam 2:22
refused to listen to Eli's warnings, 1 Sam 2:25
- (3) Eli was partly responsible before God for their
actions, 1 Sam 3:11-14
- (4) The sons died at the hands of the Philistines, 1 Sam
4:10,11,18
- (5) ironically, Samuel failed to learn from Eli's
mistakes
his sons were greedy and accepted bribes
1 Sam 8:1-3
the reason people cried out for a king, 1 Sam 8:4-5
- (6) Was Samuel too busy to be a father? 1 Sam 7:15-17
- (7) Did he try to force his sons to follow his steps,
1 Sam 8:1
- (8) Parenting is the most serious business I know
beliefs, values, character cannot be passed auto-
matically
weak parents are sinning against their children and
God.
- (9) Continuous training is required to build character
- (10) Teach then what Eli and Samuel failed
to love the Lord
worship
sexual purity
not to be greedy and take bribes
Eli=lack of discipline
Samuel=lack of time

II. God Cannot Be Manipulated

- (1) The ark narratives, 1 Sam 4-7
Israel being defeated by Philistines
thought presence of ark would help, 1 Sam 4:3
it did bring fear to Philistines, 1 Sam 4:6b-8
yet Israel was defeated again and ark captured,
4:10,11
this news caused Eli's death and daughter-in-law
to give birth
(1) 4:18,19,21
 - (2) The ark in Philistia
temple of Dagon, 1 Sam 5:1,2
twice Dagon fell, the last breaking off his head
and hands, 5:3,4
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- God proved to be greater than Dagon
- God punished Philistia for having the ark in their land
 - (1) 5:6 (tumors thought to be bubonic plague)
 - (2) same thing happened when moved to Gath, 5:9
 - (3) Ekron refused to accept the ark and sent it back to Israel
- (3) They thought the presence of ark would mean God's favor
- (4) Are we any different?
 - often call for a preacher or elder in crisis
 - put statues on dash of car
 - wear gold/silver cross
 - use prayer for emergency only
 - make vows to God for His help
- (5) God cannot be manipulated, no matter how cleverly we try to disguise it.

Conclusion:

- (1) Don't abuse God by trying to manipulate Him
- (2) Don't abuse your children by neglecting proper training (discipline and time)