

Truth and Consequence...Mercy and Judgment
1 Samuel: 2:27-36

INTRODUCTION

Samuel is still a young boy at this time serving at the temple structure in Shiloh under Eli the priest. **Last week we saw Eli rebuking his sons for their sins at the temple. This week we find God rebuking Eli.** God sent a man of God, a prophet, to confront Eli with the truth about the sin in his own life and the consequences that would follow.

1 Samuel 2:12–26 describes what was going on at Shiloh over several years, as Samuel was growing up. **Biblical narratives do not always arrange events in strict chronological order.** We therefore do not know when the visit mentioned in verse 27 took place. Nor do we know who the visitor was.

The intervention of God into time and space is often sudden. Verse 27 surprises us. A man of God, unknown to us, never brought up again in this book is thrust onto the scene. The intervention of God into time and space is also always an intervention of the Word. This man of God is a prophet, carrying with him the word of God. ***What is the word he brings?*** There is a clear logic to the message. **The Lord reminds Eli of what He had done in the past for the house of Eli; He then points out what the house of Eli has done; lastly, the Lord announces what He will therefore do—with a surprise at the end.**

I. The LORD's _____ toward the house of Eli (2:27-28)

A. "I _____..." (2:27)

God's self-revelation was more than the disclosing of information. When God makes Himself known, He makes His will known. The revelation to Aaron took place when the people of Israel were slaves in Egypt and in effect belonged to Pharaoh. God's self-revelation to Eli's ancestor Aaron and his brother Moses began the great act of redemption by which the Lord liberated the Israelites to become a holy nation to the Lord (Exodus 19:6) and freed the house of Aaron to become priests of the Lord. That is the first mentioned great act of God toward the house of Eli's "father."

B. "I _____..." (2:28a)

God's gracious work of choosing is an important theme of the Bible. Israel had been "**chosen**" by God (Deut 4:37; 7:6, 7; 10:15). In 1 Samuel we will be hearing about God's "**choosing**" a king for His people (1 Samuel 16:8–13). God's choice is reason for humility and praise. Eli must acknowledge the gracious sovereign choice by God not only of Israel but particularly of the house of Aaron, to which he and his family belonged. **Aaron was to represent all Israel before the Lord. Eli's "father" had been chosen by the Lord out of all the tribes of Israel for this extraordinary responsibility.**

C. "I _____..." (2:28b)

II. Eli's _____ of the LORD's kindness (2:29)

Don't miss it...Eli's sin is that he has honored his sons above the Lord God. How? In the name of their calling to be God's leaders, Eli was not willing to deal with the sin of his sons and thus he was honoring his sons over God. It also implies that maybe Eli had gotten used to enjoying the spoils of his sons' sin. Eli himself, by doing no more than rather feebly rebuking his sons, had honored them more than he had honored the Lord. They should have been expelled from the priesthood long ago! Why had he done that? the Lord asked.

We must remember the truths that precede these soul-crushing words. **The grace of God toward the house of Eli (vv. 27-28), like the grace of God toward us, calls the recipients of such kindness to “renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age” (Titus 2:12). The contempt for God displayed in the behavior of Eli's sons and in his failure to curb them is all the more serious in the light of God's grace (v. 29). It is like the contempt for God displayed today in our behavior “if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth.” The certain consequence for such disdain toward God, whether in the house of Eli or among us, is “a fearful expectation of judgment” (Hebrews 10:27).**

III. The Lord's _____ (2:30-36)

The word **“Therefore”** in verse 30 now has an ominous ring. The behavior of Eli and his sons must now meet the Lord who will judge the ends of the earth (1 Samuel 2:10).

A. A _____ judgment (2:30-34)

1. A promise _____ (2:30)

2. A _____ incurred (2:31-33)

3. A _____ sign (2:34)

B. A _____ (2:35-36)

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? Let me share with you some practical takeaways:

- **We are _____ for God's gifts (2:27-29)**

- **Your attitude _____ (in serving) God matters (2:30)**

- **The Lord's _____ can be _____ (2:31-34)**

- **Our _____ can result in the _____ of blessing (2:35-36)**

- **Don't let _____ have the last say in your life (2:35-36)**