



Those who Honor Me I will Honor

Samuel's Preparation: Part 2 (I Sam 2)

Study Notes Handout: Week Three

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind.

1 Samuel 2:35

Introduction: Two truths emerge as important themes in the Book of 1 Samuel. The first has to do with problems brought on by leaders who fail to honor God... the second is God's purpose in every generation to raise up faithful leaders who are committed to doing His will.

Sermon Outline: Paradigms of Leadership from Israel's Past

1. Perverted Leaders: Hophni and Phinehas (2:12 - 17, 22 - 25; 4:4, 11)

2. People-Pleasing Leaders: Eli (2:27 - 30; 3:11 - 14; 4:17 - 18)

3. Prophetic Leaders: Samuel (2:11, 18, 21, 26; 3:1, 10, 19 - 21; 4:1)

Questions for Reflection:

1. John Maxwell has said, *'If your leadership doesn't work at home, don't export it.'* How does this quote relate to the passage we studied today? (2:22 - 25, 29; 3:13; cf. I Timothy 3:1 - 7) What implications does this have on our choice of leaders? How do we apply grace in this area?

2. Being a 'people-pleaser' is generally considered a character flaw because it is pitted against living to please God (2 Cor. 5:9; Gal. 1:10; I Thes. 2:4). Yet pleasing others is a role we are often called into as well (see Rom. 15:2 - 3; I Cor. 7:32 - 34; 10:32 - 33; Col. 3:2; 2 Tim. 2:4; Titus 2:9) How does 'people-pleasing' show itself in your life? And how do we discern when pleasing people is pleasing to God?



Personal Study Notes

Key Verses:

Eli's sons were wicked men; they had no regard for the LORD.

1 Samuel 2:12

For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible, and he failed to restrain them.

1 Samuel 3:13

The Lord Makes Samuel Israel's Prophet

The Lord Reveals to Samuel His Judgment against the House of Eli (3:1-18)

The Lord Makes Samuel a Prophet to All Israel (3:19-4:1a)

No Christ-following man or woman can feel confident that they are growing if they are not living in perpetual repentance, with a holy sorrow that acknowledges that apart from the power and grace of Christ we will succumb to the evil that abides within (and without) us, until the day Christ returns.

Gordon MacDonald

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

1)

2)