

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: CONTEMPT OR WORSHIP

**1 Samuel 2:12-21, ESV** – <sup>12</sup> Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, <sup>14</sup> and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. <sup>15</sup> Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw." <sup>16</sup> And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force." <sup>17</sup> Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD with contempt.

<sup>18</sup> Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the LORD give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the LORD." So then they would return to their home.

<sup>21</sup> Indeed the LORD visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.

### Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

### ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 Why were the sons of Eli described as worthless men? How can people who are supposed to serve God and others become worthless?

2 What does it mean for Samuel to be ministering before the Lord?

3 How can people today minister before the Lord? How is serving a form of worship?

## DIGGING DEEPER

**A** *Leviticus 7:28-36, ESV* – <sup>28</sup> The LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>29</sup> “Speak to the people of Israel, saying, Whoever offers the sacrifice of his peace offerings to the LORD shall bring his offering to the LORD from the sacrifice of his peace offerings. <sup>30</sup> His own hands shall bring the LORD’s food offerings. He shall bring the fat with the breast, that the breast may be waved as a wave offering before the LORD. <sup>31</sup> The priest shall burn the fat on the altar, but the breast shall be for Aaron and his sons. <sup>32</sup> And the right thigh you shall give to the priest as a contribution from the sacrifice of your peace offerings. <sup>33</sup> Whoever among the sons of Aaron offers the blood of the peace offerings and the fat shall have the right thigh for a portion. <sup>34</sup> For the breast that is waved and the thigh that is contributed I have taken from the people of Israel, out of the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and have given them to Aaron the priest and to his sons, as a perpetual due from the people of Israel. <sup>35</sup> This is the portion of Aaron and of his sons from the LORD’s food offerings, from the day they were presented to serve as priests of the LORD. <sup>36</sup> The LORD commanded this to be given them by the people of Israel, from the day that he anointed them. It is a perpetual due throughout their generations.”

4 According to the passage above, what was the appropriate way to handle the offering? How is this different from what Eli’s sons were doing?

5 Based on what we read about Eli’s sons, how would you describe their heart condition? Explain.

6 How is the peace offering described in Leviticus a form of worship? While we no longer practice animal sacrifices as offerings to God, we do make other offerings to Him. What are some offerings that we make to God?

**B** *Psalm 1:1-6, ESV – Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.*

**7** Looking at the passage above, how does the psalmist contrast the wicked and the righteous?

**8** How does a person keep themselves from the counsel of wicked, standing with sinners, or sitting with scoffers?

**9** What does it mean to delight in the law of the Lord? What does it mean to meditate on it day and night?

## TAKING IT HOME

Samuel and Eli's sons give us a clear contrast of worship toward God and contempt toward God. As priest, Eli's sons were most likely taught the correct way to honor God. So, what brought them to this point? What about you? Have you gotten off track in an area of your life? Do you need to get back to worshipping God with your everything? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you look to worship God and not to show contempt toward God.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Exodus 28:6-14, 39:2-7

Leviticus 17:6

Numbers 18:17

Deuteronomy 18:3

Matthew 18:2-5, 10, 19:14