

## SERMON-BASED STUDY: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

**1 Samuel 2:27-36, ESV** – <sup>27</sup> And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh? <sup>28</sup> Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel. <sup>29</sup> Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?’ <sup>30</sup> Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,’ but now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed. <sup>31</sup> Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your house. <sup>32</sup> Then in distress you will look with envious eye on all the prosperity that shall be bestowed on Israel, and there shall not be an old man in your house forever. <sup>33</sup> The only one of you whom I shall not cut off from my altar shall be spared to weep his eyes out to grieve his heart, and all the descendants of your house shall die by the sword of men. <sup>34</sup> And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day. <sup>35</sup> And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever. <sup>36</sup> And everyone who is left in your house shall come to implore him for a piece of silver or a loaf of bread and shall say, “Please put me in one of the priests’ places, that I may eat a morsel of bread.” ’ ”

### 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 This week’s message began with a “man of God” delivering a word from God. Share a time when you have been someone’s “Man of God” or share a time when someone else has been a “Man of God” to you.

2 Why does God allow us to decide what to do with what He gives us? Similarly, why does God allow us to reap what we sow?

3 What is the difference between sin of commission and sin of omission? How does God look at these two types of sin? Explain.

## DIGGING DEEPER

A **Matthew 10:37-38, ESV** – <sup>37</sup> *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.* <sup>38</sup> *And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.*

**Galatians 6:7-10, ESV** – <sup>7</sup> *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.* <sup>8</sup> *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.* <sup>9</sup> *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.* <sup>10</sup> *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

4 According to Matthew 10:37-38, we are to love Jesus more than we love our own families. Why does Jesus make this distinction? Besides people, what are some things that we can find ourselves loving more than Jesus? Explain.

5 What does Paul mean when he says, “for whatever one sows, that will he also reap”?

6 How can people drift into sin of omission? How can followers of Jesus avoid falling into this trap?

B **Proverbs 16:1-9, ESV** – *The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.* <sup>2</sup> *All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.* <sup>3</sup> *Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.* <sup>4</sup> *The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.* <sup>5</sup> *Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.* <sup>6</sup> *By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.* <sup>7</sup> *When a man’s ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.* <sup>8</sup> *Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.* <sup>9</sup> *The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.*

**Proverbs 19:21, ESV** – <sup>21</sup> *Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

7 Looking at the passages above, how is God's way distinguished from man's way?

8 What does it mean to "commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established"?

9 How do you feel knowing that God will make His plan go forward no matter what? What should our response be in light of this truth?

## TAKING IT HOME

We all receive more from God than we ever deserve. So, the question is, "What are we doing with what He gives us"? What about you? Have you misused what God has given you? Have you seen others misusing what God has given them? What is your next step in light of this message? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you look to honor Him with the gifts He has given you.

## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Jeremiah 10:23

Psalm 119:133