

# A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 2:11-36

“Judgment Begins in God's House” – April 30, 2017



## Introduction

Last week, we were introduced to Hannah. Facing incredible odds and long suffering, Hannah trusted God, and in His grace, God blessed her with a son named Samuel. Her prayer ([2:1-10](#)) reflects the truth that salvation isn't found in the strength of man, but God. In contrast to Hannah's view of the world that takes God seriously, 1 Samuel 2:11-36 reintroduces us to Eli and his sons, Hophni and Phineas. As we walk through the text notice how the two families (and thus two ways to live) are set side by side to contrast and compare: the way of the world that seeks immediate gratification without a concern for God (Eli and sons), and the way of faith that trusts God and seeks to honor Him above all (Hannah, Elkanah, and Samuel). How do we know which path is right? Proverbs 14:12 tells us “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” 1 Samuel 2:11-36 provide the assurance that the path of faith is the right path (even when it seems *otherwise*).

## Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

## Sermon Outline

- I. Honoring our self seems right to a man, but leads to death (2:11-26)
- II. Honoring God seems wrong to the world, but leads to life (2:27-36)

## Read & Discuss

- 1) Read [1 Samuel 2:11-26](#)

Rather than serving God's people as they should've, Eli's sons exploited them – stealing the choice cuts of meat that belonged to the Israelites and stealing the fat that was reserved for God alone. If that wasn't enough, they turned the temple into a brothel by sleeping with the women serving at the temple. Though things seemed hopeless under the leadership of these priests, though it seemed like God had forgotten His people and threw in the towel, what evidence does the text give that God *is* at work? How is that an encouragement for us when we can't see or understand what God is up to? In addition to its encouragement, there's also a warning here. Eli's sons had pushed against God so long, God gave them over to their sin. What role do other Christians play in keeping our hearts from being hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:12-13)? What can we do to encourage honest, humble, loving and transparent community in our church?

Additional reading: Leviticus 3:16, 7:30-34, Exodus 8:14, 10:1, Romans 1:18-32

\*For a helpful resource on the sobering truth of God's mercy and judgement, check out R.C. Sproul's [Chosen by God](#).

2) Read [1 Samuel 2:27-36](#)

Why was God's provision not enough for Eli and his sons? What made them discontent and bored with the grace of God they'd received? How can we grow in the wonder of God's mercy? v30 the Lord says, "those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise me shall be lightly esteemed." Are there areas of your life where you are honoring something above God? What are they? What is necessary to honor God in those areas? Amid God's judgment, the man of God points to the hope that comes from God's promise to raise up a faithful priest. Why do sinners like us need a priest or mediator before a holy God? What difference does it make that Jesus is our high priest, interceding for us?

Additional reading: 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 4:14, 7:25-27

As a means to remember and praise God for His grace, take time to reflect on the lyrics of "Before the Throne of God Above" (and sing them!)

1: Before the throne of God above I have a strong, a perfect plea; A great High Priest, whose Name is Love, Who ever lives and pleads for me.	2: My name is graven on His hands, My name is written on His heart; I know that while with God He stands No tongue can bid me thence depart.
3: When Satan tempts me to despair, And tells me of the guilt within, Upward I look, and see Him there Who made an end of all my sin.	4: Because the sinless Savior died, My sinful soul is counted free; For God, the Just, is satisfied To look on Him and pardon me.
5: Behold Him there, the risen Lamb! My perfect, spotless Righteousness, The great unchangeable I AM, The King of glory and of grace.	6: One with Himself, I cannot die; My soul is purchased by His blood; My life is hid with Christ on high, With Christ, my Savior and my God.

**Prayer of Response**

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>