

"Have We Learned Anything?"

1 Samuel 1-7

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- We all have people that we look up to and we learn much from them. There are several kinds of people that we admire:
 - people we know
 - people we wish we knew
 - people we thought we knew

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- We've had the opportunity to learn a lot over the last 90 days...
- have we learned anything?

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- Samuel is closely associated with a man named Eli. What do we know about Eli?
 - His name means "my God"
 - A priest from Aaron's house
 - Sons were priests
 - Called a judge
 - Led for 40 years

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- Can you imagine all that Eli had done, seen, been a part of in those 40 years?
- The high water mark in Eli's ministry was Samuel
- 1 Samuel 3:8-10, he gave wise counsel to Samuel, allowing him to live up to his name ("to hear God")
- In so many ways, Eli had an amazing ministry...but there was another part of Eli's story

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 1 Samuel 1:12-15

- 12 As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. 13 Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. 14 And Eli said to her, "How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you." 15 But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord.

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 1 Samuel 1:22–25

- 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the Lord and dwell there forever." 23 Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. 24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 1 Samuel 1:28
 - 28 Therefore I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he lives, he is lent to the Lord." And he worshiped the Lord there.

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 1 Samuel 2:14-18

- 14 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. 15 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." 16 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." 17 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. 18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.

- obesity; he had benefited from the sins of his sons

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- What is in Eli's story that we can apply to the recent history of The Sanctuary Fellowship?
- 1) We can fail at our high calling
 - Eli descended from Aaron
 - As believers we are a high and holy priesthood
 - We are to live in a way that brings honor to God
 - Eph. 1:11-12 "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory."

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- Eli had pedigree, education, divine appointment, a great position- and he failed at living his calling
- we fail when we forget

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 2) We can fail to pass on the message of faith that we desire to
 - Eli *survived* in the priesthood for 40 yrs
 - Eli is remembered more as a contrast to Samuel than as a mentor to Samuel
 - Despite his intentions, Eli didn't pass on a living faith; his desire to do so got lost on the way to being a priest

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 3) We can get trapped in patterns of sinfulness
 - Eli was "heavy"; he knew his sons' sins and benefitted from them
 - Eli made a weak attempt at correction
 - I Samuel 1:23–25 Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the Lord establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.
 - he was old and blind and heavy and had set his feet into sinful patterns in these areas

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 4) We will have our lives laid bare someday
 - Eli's eulogy is there for all of us to read 3000 years later.
 - What will your eulogy be?
 - What will strangers know about you?
 - What will those closest to you know about you?

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 5) We don't have to be a walking dichotomy
 - Who was Eli- really?
 - He was BOTH faithful and a failure
 - We are called to walk in faithfulness, in consistency with our new life in Christ
 - We are to reduce the gap between who we are and who we should be
 - We will always have inconsistencies, but they shouldn't be life-destroying or faith-destroying

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 6) We should have realistically high expectations for our leaders.
- Scripture set high requirements for priests and God held them accountable.
- NT church leadership has high standards (I Timothy 3 and Titus 1)
- Are our expectations realistic?
- Be prepared to extend grace and help when they fail.

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- 7) God's Kingdom doesn't fail when we do, but it takes a pounding
 - Israel, worship, the priesthood and sacrifices didn't stop
 - Worship wasn't taken seriously, people's faith was shaken, God's enemies were emboldened
 - God's work here hasn't been destroyed.
 - God's fame took a hit, but his work continues among the faithful
- I Samuel 7:33 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."

"Have We Learned Anything?"

- Class has been in session– have we learned anything?
- 1) Commit
- 2) Forgive
- 3) Live
- 4) Repent

“The Frazzled Female” for Moms of Preschoolers



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9-11AM**

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March 5-7

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Meeting Immediately after the service in
Gym #1