

# Set Apart

## 1 Samuel 2 & 3

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### 1 Samuel 2:12-26

What if you could pick the time period you would be born into? You'd pick wrong...

Settling the wild, wild west

The Victorian era of the late 1800's watching the birth of the industrial revolution

Walking the colonial streets of early America

The future (14 years from Mars – 2033)

## Samuel's Surroundings

### Counterfeit Clergy

Elis' sons, their dad was the priest, the head honcho, the top dog.

Hophni & Phinehas were close and yet so far, they did not know the Lord (12)

**Corrupt:** sons of Belial, or sons of mischief, wickedness

- *A nearness to holy things does not make one holy...*
- *Holiness comes from the inside out, not from the outside in...*
- *Familiarity can be a strength, but it can also create a false sense of security.*

### (13-14) what was acceptable/reasonable

Leviticus 7:31-35 (1 Samuel 2:15-17)

Like a corrupt police officer taking bribes on the street

Banker who stole money out of your account

*It was therefore a gross act of disobedience and lawlessness, their actions were in direct opposition to almighty God.*

***"Sin, selfishness, self-focus, will cause you to rationalize the unreasonable"***

***No one in ministry should ever be wondering, what's in it for me, what do I get in return.***

- Demanding
- Threatening

Within relationships of any kind

- **Family & Friends** (*You are either the king of your castle or a servant of the Lord*)
- **Romantic Interests**
- **Ministry**

**Over exerting power is actually a sign of weakness**

These may have been ambitious, aggressive young men but those very traits were evidence that they had a weak walk with God.

**Something is wrong when the people are pleading with the priests, encouraging them to obey scripture (15-17).**

## **Polluted People**

*“No position is morally higher than that of him who stands between man and God for the performance of most solemn duties.”*

**Matthew 18** to cause a child of God to stumble is a grave mistake... millstones and oceans.

**Abhor:** despise, wearied of, to loathe

Grows weary over time... annoyance or burden.

- Reminds us that people can cast a shadow on someone's relationship with God
- Any mature believer knows that people shouldn't change your relationship with God but at the same time, a mature believer would never say such a flippant comment about such a serious situation.

**Perhaps it would have been wise of PHen and Hap to consider the impact they would have on others. To ask the question of themselves, what seeds am I sowing into the lives of those around me?**

**While this may sadden our hearts, it both breaks and infuriates the Lord's**

COMING JUDGMENT

All this to realize, that the men young Samuel would have looked up to and learned from were a gross misrepresentation of the Lord and now, on a broader spectrum, the people became tainted and the joy and rejoicing that was at one time present had now been emptied from the Israelites.

*Weariness is in fact, the plow that prepares the heart for greater sin*

*“Dad, watch out for the fiery darts today... “*

**It only takes the first domino to fall and the rest will be quick to follow...**

- You don't have to be corrupt at work, just have a compromised walk when around your colleagues.
- You don't have to commit adultery within your marriage, just all things to become lukewarm.

## **Increased Immorality**

Snake that was emptying itself out to try and eat its owner

**Their sin grew...** at first it was abusing their position and taking advantage of what the people brought, but eventually, they began taking advantage of the people themselves.

**Women who assembled (served) at the door of the tabernacle of meeting.**

**Sexual sin is always a product of unchecked areas of our lives.**

- Go after the root!!!
- You will treat sin the same way you see it.
- If you do not see sin as a big problem, then you will treat it accordingly.
- Consensual sex is still sinful... God is not consenting

*vs.22 Eli was VERY old...*

**Do not mistake God's patience for permission**

**The father figure...**

- Son's of mischief
- Samuel had no immediate parents throughout the year

Counterfeited Clergy  
Polluted People  
Increasing Immorality

## A Lukewarm Leader

1 Samuel 2:27-29

Referring to Egypt: Nothing has changed... this should be easy, same as it was back in Egypt

God is not difficult to understand or follow... not complex.

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not *the author* of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Written the law on our heart, if we walk in the Spirit you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

1 Samuel 2:29

(dirty shoes on carpet)

Kick against: walk on... no reverence for...

Honor: more burdened, concerned for, fearful of upsetting

1 Samuel 3:13b ...because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.

There is your cross... pick it up!

*The clouds of judgment were beginning to form... patience had run out...*

God can be exceptionally gracious and gentle, however He will not compromise. Sin is sin...

When you watch someone's face as they see something... through their eyes...

Sin was GREAT before the Lord: *The intensity of their sin was immense before the Lord.*

Paraphrase (2:30-36) (Judgment is coming to the nation and to your house)

\*34-35

- God's not interested in what you think of your sin.
- You, on the other hand, should be VERY interested in what God thinks of your sin.

Turned over tables

(the Lord wasn't joking that day, there is a day where the Lord's patience will expire.)

Revelation 21:10 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

### Samuel grew up in a time where

Counterfeit Clergy  
Polluted People  
Increased Immorality  
Lukewarm Leader

Yet ministered to the Lord, grew before the Lord, found favor from the Lord,

*\*Before the Lord*

**We can complain about it, theorize over it, or do something about it... shine the light of the Gospel.**

## Samuel's Responses

OBEY: Out of immorality – Before the Lord – Endurance – Yielded

## Out of the Immorality

So often our hero's... David going after the giant or Daniel throwing his windows open to pray

Sometimes it is what you are not doing that sets you apart...- swam upstream

**Proverbs 4:25-27** Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.

**COMPLAINING** The culture was discouraged and abhorred “church”

THIS IS HARD!!!

**Philippians 2:14-15** Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as light in the world,

**COMPROMISE:** There usually isn't much to pray about... stay away!

**Proverbs 1:10** My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.

*Well, what if...? DO NOT CONSENT!*

## Before the Lord

11. ministered to the Lord: The reality of the Lord never seemed to drift too far away...

**Presentation Matters (food)(Sales)(Interview)(Wedding) SET APART**

**1 Samuel 2:18-21**

Linen ephod: usual attire or garments worn by the priests,

Little robe: possibly similar to that which the High Priest would wear (seamless and blue)

**Exodus 28:6** “and they shall make the ephod of gold, blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, artistically worked.

Which are the righteous acts of the saints

Ephod what something that was an every day part of what the priests wore but Samuel was not a priest but a Levite (assistant type)

Sometimes things are put upon us that are bigger than we understand or would have ever bargained for... his mom and her habit of bringing robes.

His mom played a role in this but hey! Take a look around and see if there is anyone willing to help you out along the way.

### Before the Lord:

- **2:18** ministered before the Lord
- **2:21** the child grew before the Lord
- **2:26** grew in stature and favor with the Lord and man
- **3:1** ministered to the Lord

### Ministered to the Lord: attended to the Lord, in a way that pleased the Lord. (not your house)

- **My job** is not my job (100 other people more qualified, through the Lord favor, he opened the door/opportunity)
- **My money** is not my money
- **My ministry** is not my ministry (they are God's people who are to be looked after with the same heart the Lord has for them)
- **My kids** are not my kids (God created them, fearfully and wonderfully, and then entrusted them into my care to raise them in a way to fear the Lord and live for the Kingdom)
- **My wife** is not my wife (I get to live life with, and lead, a woman whom Christ died for)

## Endured

2:22 Eli was very old...

Want to know the key to running a marathon? Don't stop!

### Kept his hands to the plow... as unto the Lord...

Luke 9:62 But Jesus said to him, No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

### Worry about today

Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

### Faithful in the little things

Matthew 25:21, 23

### Don't worry about other people...

John 21:22-23 Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me."

When you want to quit, keep going No towel to throw in...

1 Samuel 3:1-17a

## Yielded to authorities, surrendered to the Lord

### Yielded to Earthly Authorities

As imperfect of a person as Eli and his sons were... Samuel came running whenever he was called. Samuel served under Eli but He did not serve Eli, He served the Lord.

**What if they do not deserve it?** They never will... you do it as unto the LORD!

"Deserve it" means they have met your standards...

### Yielded to His Father in Heaven

- **The Lord Came:** Samuel didn't come to the Lord, the Lord came to him

**Luke 2:11** "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

**1 John 4:9** In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

- **The Lord Stood:** not passing by but remained

**John 1** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us...

**Hebrews 4** He can sympathize with us... (compassion, touched with the same feeling)

- **The Lord Spoke:** He is still calling... not willing... whom shall we send...

Vs. 18 –

God may be calling you to have a hard conversation, don't shy away from it.

God may have a hard conversation you need to hear, don't harden your heart to it.

Salvation

**John 3:16**

**John 4:25-26** The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

**2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.