

## FIRST SAMUEL

### Lesson 4: Chapter 2:12-24. Eli's Wicked Sons

15 July 2016

**Verse 12** Eli's sons were "**sons of Belial**," and Old Testament, pagan god. In the New Testament, the term designates a child of Satan. God is not the Father of all mankind (John 8:44, John 1:12). Your characteristics ought to change to the likeness of your Father in heaven after you're saved. They were priests, but they "**knew not the LORD.**" Just because a man holds a position in the church doesn't guarantee that he knows the Lord. Jesus said, "**The tree is known by his fruit**" (Matthew 12:33).

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**Verses 13-16** These priests had ungodly customs (see Matthew 15:3-6), which overruled and ignored what God said. They placed themselves above God in doing so.



Flesh hook

Their custom was to take what belonged to God.

Today you can easily tell whether a minister is a child of the Devil. He's the one who takes what belongs to God and keeps it for himself. He puts himself first, above God and above God's people. He takes the best for himself (vs. 15). He won't take biblical correction (vs. 16), but instead threatens those who try to reason with him.

Jesus came to minister (John 13:4-17, Matthew 20:28). He was our example. He didn't come as a king. He came as a lowly carpenter. He gave up the privileges as God and King to serve us.

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**Verse 17** The actions of these priests caused the people to abhor (hate, despise) the offering of the Lord. When people get the sense that the preacher's primary goal is to get their money, they will quit coming to church. They will also miss the blessings that come from giving to the Lord (Acts 20:35, 2 Cor. 9:7) and to the ministries that result in souls saved.

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**Verse 22** Eli's sons, the priests were also involved in sexual immorality. They used their position, title, and authority to take advantage of women with spiritual needs and ruin their lives.

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**Verses 23-24** Eli was aware of his sons' "evil dealings." He told them it was their fault that the people were sinning. As ministers, they were responsible before God for the spiritual condition of the people under their ministry.

Though Eli saw the wrong his sons were committing, he didn't do anything to correct the situation (Prov. 29:17). Admitting there was sin would have affected Eli's reputation as priest.

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## THE RIGHT RESPONSE:

**Numbers 25:1-9** When God saw sin being practiced among His people, He killed those who were sinning. Moses and other godly men also killed those who were sinning. God killed 24,000 fornicators with a plague. God hates sin among His people. Today if you're saved and you're continuing a life of sin, God will do whatever it takes to correct you as His child (Heb. 12:5, 6). If you resist, He may take you home (1 Cor. 11:30, 1 John 5:16, 17).

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**Exodus 32:25-29** While Moses was up in Mount Sinai, the Israelite people were committing great sins of immorality and idolatry. God commanded them to choose sides: "Who is on the Lord's side?" Those who chose God, were commanded kill all those who were against God (about 3,000).

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**1 Corinthians 5:1-13** In the New Testament church, when you find a brother or sister who is sinning, they have two choices:

- 1. Repent (turn from the sin) and seek God's forgiveness.
- 2. Leave the church until they're willing to repent and seek God's forgiveness.

If you ignore the sin and leave the fornicator in the church, they are a danger to others in the church. It also leads people to believe that the church is okay with such sinful acts. The message must be made clear: sin is not tolerated in any degree in the church.

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STAND AGAINST SIN

TELL PEOPLE TO REPENT AND GET RIGHT

TELL THE TRUTH ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

CALL SIN "SIN"

FIGHT SIN THE BEST YOU CAN

**John 12:47-48**

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. <sup>48</sup> He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.