

Weekender

Series Slide

Title “No Longer...The Days Are Coming”- 1 Samuel 2

1 Samuel 2:12-35

12 Eli's sons were wicked men; they did not respect the Lord 13 or the priests' share of the sacrifices from the people. When anyone offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged meat fork while the meat was boiling 14 and plunge it into the container, kettle, cauldron, or cooking pot. The priest would claim for himself whatever the meat fork brought up. This is the way they treated all the Israelites who came there to Shiloh. 15 Even before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the one who was sacrificing, “Give the priest some meat to roast, because he won't accept boiled meat from you — only raw.” 16 If that person said to him, “The fat must be burned first; then you can take whatever you want for yourself,” the servant would reply, “No, I insist that you hand it over right now. If you don't, I'll take it by force! ” 17 So the servants' sin was very severe in the presence of the Lord, because the men treated the Lord's offering with contempt.

Consumption- Its Spiritual abuse. Using their spiritual authority to take for themselves.

Container, Kettle, Cauldron, Cooking Pot- Robert Alter says this shows the frantic way they went searching for meat. Its a picture of the desperation of consumption. Never Enough. Always Hungry.

They took from what was supposed to be set aside for the Lord.

"Check please, for Mr. Harry Folger. For whom the phrase "dim sum" is not merely a description, but a damnation. A man who finds himself sitting down to a single, never-ending course of just desserts, prepared for him in the kitchens...of The Twilight Zone."

This is what consumption does. You take, take, take, and take. And its never enough.

v 17- this is all done in the presence of the Lord. Here is the irony. Eli's sons are perfectly positioned to live a life of cultivation, instead of consumption. They are physically close to God, in a position to help others connect with God...which would be the most fulfilling life they could live. Instead- they are ignorant to his presence. They have no awe...no fear of God...no realization that his presence is right there with them...so they live day after day after day...sticking their 3 pronged fork into any container, kettle, cauldron, or cooking pot they can find...hoping beyond hope that they will finally be satisfied.

They are taking from the Lord what belongs to the Lord. And in so doing...what they take for themselves- never satisfies.

18 Samuel served in the Lord's presence —this mere boy was dressed in the linen ephod. 19 Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 20 Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife: "May the Lord give you children by this woman in place of the one she has given to the Lord." Then they would go home.

21 The Lord paid attention to Hannah's need, and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord.

This is a picture of a very different family. Remember, Hannah satisfied with the Lord. Recognizing his presence in her pain of infertility. Dedicating her son to the Lord?

Hannah let go of what she HAD to have- and in so doing is enjoying her family. Hophni and Phineas aren't enjoying anything.

Meanwhile- in the background of Hophni and Phineas and their endless consumption and contempt of God- Samuel is growing. He is growing up in the presence of the Lord. Maturing. Serving. He is growing up in an awareness and awe of who God is.

22 Now Eli was very old. He heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they were sleeping with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 23 He said to them, "Why are you doing these things? I have heard about your evil actions from all these people. 24 No, my sons, the news I hear the Lord's people spreading is not good. 25 If one person sins against another, God can intercede for him, but if a person sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?" But they would not listen to their father, since the Lord intended to kill them. 26 By contrast, the boy Samuel grew in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

More consuming from Hophni and Phineas. And now we hear Eli's concern.

Samuel, directly by contrast- Again, not only are we watching him grow with the Lord- he's also becoming someone the people like. QUite the opposite of Hophni and Phineas.

This is a picture of Overflow. Men's Breakfast. What I talked about 2 weeks ago.

27 A man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the Lord says: 'Didn't I reveal myself to your forefather's family when they were in Egypt and belonged to Pharaoh's palace? 28 Out of all the tribes of Israel, I chose your house to be my

priests, to offer sacrifices on my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your forefather's family all the Israelite food offerings. 29 Why, then, do all of you despise my sacrifices and offerings that I require at the place of worship? You have honored your sons more than me, by making yourselves fat with the best part of all of the offerings of my people Israel.'

Now we learn that Eli is complicit. He has not only been a passive participant, letting his sons live in contempt of God...he has also been profiting from their sin.

Passive participation in others sin.

30 "Therefore, this is the declaration of the Lord, the God of Israel: 'I did say that your family and your forefather's family would walk before me forever. But now,' this is the Lord's declaration, 'no longer! For those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disgraced. 31 Look, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your forefather's family, so that none in your family will reach old age. 32 You will see distress in the place of worship, in spite of all that is good in Israel, and no one in your family will ever again reach old age. 33 Any man from your family I do not cut off from my altar will bring grief and sadness to you. All your descendants will die violently. 34 This will be the sign that will come to you concerning your two sons Hophni and Phinehas: both of them will die on the same day.'

What they thought would bring them life- brings them death.

This "See distress in the place of worship" actually is the word for a Jealous eye. Meaning despite all the good they see happening in Israel- what they have will never be enough. They will never be satisfied with what they have...only ever looking elsewhere for something else to consume...until they themselves are consumed by death.

35 " 'Then I will raise up a faithful priest for myself. He will do whatever is in my heart and mind. I will establish a lasting dynasty for him, and he will walk before my anointed one for all time.'

Then there is is this

v 30-31

No Longer....The Days are coming.

These

v 34-35

Die Nasty or Dynasty?

Dynasty is dwelling house- temple- family

We see this in Hannah's family

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 "Look, the days are coming" — this is the Lord's declaration — "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. 32 This one will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt — my covenant that they broke even though I am their master" — the Lord's declaration. 33 "Instead, this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days" — the Lord's declaration. "I will put my teaching within them and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will one teach his neighbor or his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them" — this is the Lord's declaration. "For I will forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin."

Finish with v 25 & 35- "If one person sins against the Lord, can anyone intercede for him?"