



PERSON 1: DOESN'T KNOW THE LORD

1 Samuel 2:12, *Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord.*

- * **Worthless.** The Hebrew, “sons of wickedness” Also translated scoundrels, useless, or corrupt.
- * **They did not know the Lord.** The key characteristic about Eli’s sons. All of their actions seem to stem from this fact.

1) TAKE THE RIGHT THINGS IN THE WRONG WAY.

1 Samuel 2:13-17, *The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, 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. 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.” 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.” 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.*

- * **Understanding portions for the priests:** See Leviticus 3, Leviticus 7:28-36
- * **Take.** A key recurring word in the scriptures that is often connected with humanity taking things into their own hands rather than trusting the Lord. The result is they ‘take’ rather than ‘receive’. See it’s beginning in Genesis 3:1-7, especially verse 6.

2) UNRESPONSIVE TO THE LORD'S LEADERSHIP & WARNING.

1 Samuel 2:22-25, *Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting. And he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the Lord spreading abroad. ²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the Lord to put them to death.*

3) RESULTS IN DESTRUCTION.

- * **A Helpful Study.** Consider Pharaoh in Exodus 5-12. He hardens his own heart in the beginning and after repeated unresponsiveness, the Lord hardens his heart.

PERSON 2: GROWING IN THE LORD

1 Samuel 2:18-21, *Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. ¹⁹ And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord." So then they would return to their home.*

✳ **Linen ephod.** The attire worn by the priests.

1 Samuel 2:26, *Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man.*

✳ **Young Samuel is looking like young Jesus.** Verse 26 is almost word for word for how Luke describes young Jesus growing up in Luke 2:52.

Matthew 22:37-39, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*

CAUTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

1) CAUTION: PROXIMITY AND POSITION DOESN'T MEAN YOU KNOW THE LORD.

Matthew 7:13-14, *"Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Matthew 7:21-23, *"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*

Psalms 139:23-24, *Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!*

2) ENCOURAGEMENT: A PERSON CAN KNOW THE LORD.

✳ **How do we produce good things?** The Scriptures teach that good things are produced from the Lord working in a person's life who trusts him and knows him. (See Galatians 5:22-26, Matthew 7:16-20)

Romans 10:6-11, *But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."*