

## **Saturday, February 24, 2024 - Day 10 of Lent**

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I am truly sorry for the moments yesterday where I missed the mark, where I did not do what you asked me to do. I ask your forgiveness and that you might give me the strength to better follow you today. May your mercies be new today, and may I give you the glory you rightly deserve.

Read 1 Samuel 2:27-36 (NIV)

**Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, “This is what the LORD says: ‘Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor’s family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh? I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your ancestor’s family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites. Why do you<sup>[a]</sup> scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?’**

**“Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.’ But now the LORD declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your priestly house, so that no one in it will reach old age, and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, no one in your family line will ever reach old age. Every one of you that I do not cut off from serving at my altar I will spare only to destroy your sight and sap your strength, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.**

**“And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day. I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always. Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread and plead, ‘Appoint me to some priestly office so I can have food to eat.’”**

### **Answer the following questions:**

Are you like me and long to see the wrongs of this world righted? Do you want to see strong leadership in place which honors God? How can we find that? This passage speaks directly to that. We see that the job of the priest was three-fold: 1. Going before God and interceding on behalf of the people; 2. Burning incense, which glorified God – or doing that which glorifies God; 3. And being the one

who counsels the people with the wisdom of God. Those are the things that the priests should be doing. But that was not happening here. Eli's sons were "fattening themselves on the work of others", which was wrong! How can God right these wrongdoings, even within His own people?

1. When asking God to fix the wrongdoings within the world, have you ever paused to think that you might be part of those wrongdoings? Have you ever on your own interests and priorities over those of the people you know you should be loving and serving?
2. How would you like God to handle the wrongdoings in your life?
3. How does God handle the wrongdoings of this world? Who is the faithful priest God chooses to raise up?
4. Would your answer change if I told you that the Hebrew word for "faithful" also means "enduring"? Who is the faithful and enduring priest who rules as King forever?
5. What business do you need to resolve with Jesus this morning?

#### Close in Prayer

Lord Jesus, enduring priest and high king, despite our guilt, you have opened a way for us to come to you. You know that we have sinned against others and you in thought, word, and deed. Forgive us and allow us to experience your grace so we might be restored, led, preserved, and hope-filled. Amen.