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"Sin in God's house"

We don't have to do the work of God on our own. He promised to be with us!

1 Sam 3

11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

This text has shaken me and I looked at the Lord in another way. I asked, "who is He?" He is holy, holy, holy. He will not allow us to drag His Name through the mud. We will be judged if we do.

He will not allow sin in the lives of His servant.

A servant of the Lord need to know that to be called into God's work is no small thing. It is no playground.

We see how the Lord expect us to be.

He won't allow us to dishonour His Name, but that His name be hallowed.

Here in this text we see how God chastises His child who has walked in a vain and evil way. Here was the high priest who did not do the work of God as he ought.

Think of Moses, that man of God. He was commissioned to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Israel was a very difficult nation and they murmured and complained continually.

When Moses came down from the mountain full of joy for having been in God's presence and having received the tablets of stone, he cast them down at the foot of the mountain when he saw the golden calf they had made.

Then Moses had to go up again to receive new tablets.

At the end of their journey God commanded Moses to speak to the Rock when the children of Israel complained about water once again. Yet this time Moses was so tired of the murmuring of the nation of Israel that he struck the Rock in stead. Yet because Moses did not hallow God's name in front of the children of Israel, God said that he cannot enter the promised land.

In doing God's work we must take care to do it in God's way.

Here was Eli who served God faithfully for forty years, yet at the end things went wrong. What was his sin? It was concerning his children. What had his children done?

They were very close to the tent of meeting and their father's ministry, yet they did not follow God. With their unbelief they were rude in their behaviour. And because of their evil ways the work of God was no longer respected. The nation of God lost their faith in God and His servants because of the behaviour of Eli's sons.

Even worse they slept with the women that come to the temple to worship.

What did Eli do when he heard of the evil of his sons?

Though he knew what was happening he only spoke to them and did not restrain them.

In the war against their enemies they were conquered because of the sin in God's house and many Israelites died.

This should shock us to reality. We might involve our children in God's work yet they don't believe and aren't truly serving God. If they're not serving God, then they're serving satan.

Where are your children?

You might keep quiet about the sin of your children, but God won't be quiet.

Do you know your calling?

God judged Eli for being the high priest yet not faithful to his calling.

There is great disrespect for churches because of the sinful things known to be in the churches which aren't done anything about.

Eli left it until he could no longer do anything about it and he was blind.

Have you become blind spiritually?

The sins of the sons of Eli had infected the whole Israel.

God refused to continue speaking to His priests. He sidelined them. The communication between Eli and God was broken, irreversibly broken. And God raised Himself a new prophet, Samuel.

Eli was still in the house of God, next to the covenant, but God did not speak to him anymore.

During the war many died and even the priests, the sons of Eli, were killed. A messenger came to Eli and told him of everything that had happened and that the ark of the covenant was taken. When he heard it he fell over backwards and died. The wife of Phineas also gave birth to a child and named him Ichabod, "the glory has gone".

What a way to die for God's high priest, having served God his whole life! All in vain for he did not hallow God's name as he should have!

The word of God was rare in those days. And then God spoke to Samuel, the boy who came to the temple to learn from Eli!

Eli asked Samuel what God had said and Samuel told him everything. What was Eli's response? "He is God, let Him do as He pleases".

Compare that to David's repentance. David knew he cannot exist with that sin in his life and pleaded for mercy and forgiveness.

Jesus is the great High Priest. The word of God says, "let us draw near to Him with boldness". John said, "behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world".

Draw near to God that He may cleanse you that your ministry be restored again. Don't you want to draw near to His Mercy seat, His throne of grace?

That we might receive what God wants us to have. We have such a privilege to have such a high priest.

We are invited to come to Him, the Living one who gives mercy.

It is dark on earth. In our country things are difficult.

Must we be silent? God was not silent. God expected Eli to fulfil God's ministry.

If your children refuse to go God's way, don't side with them. Let them go but don't allow them with sin in God's house.

If you've compromised in this regard let today be the day of your repentance. Don't go home still separated from God. Humble yourself under God's mighty hand. If we don't then the fellowship between us and God will remain severed.