

**A Matter of Honour  
1 Samuel 2:12 – 3:1**

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**1. Hophni and Phinehas have no regard for the Lord. (2:12-17,22)**

- **There is a 'wicked' irony here. (12)**
- **They were without knowledge of God.**  
*They did not have a covenant relationship with God.*
- **They abused their privileged position by stealing from God (13-17)**

*"The sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt." (17)*

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- **They abused their privileged position by sleeping with temple servants (22)**

*They were publicly shaming God.*

**God hates it when we use positions of power and privilege in abusive and unjust ways.**

**2. Samuel, the 'good son', continues to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with men. (18-21,26)**

- **The great reversal theme continues**
- **"Growing in stature and favour"**  
*Who else is described in exactly the same way?*  
\_\_\_\_\_, in Luke 2:52

*How do we grow in stature and favour?*

**Proverbs 3:1-6**

**3. Eli's failure as High Priest.**

- **Questionable judgment**  
*Now Eli the priest was sitting on a chair by the doorpost of the Lord's temple. (1 Samuel 1:9)*  
**This was the 'seat of judgment.'**
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- **An accomplice to his sons**  
*Why do you honour your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel? (29)*

- **Failure to restrain**  
*For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons made themselves contemptible and he failed to restrain them. (3:13)*

**Eli is judged on the basis of his failure as God's priest.**

**4. God carries out the required judgment. (27-36)**

*His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the Lord's will to put them to death. (25)*

**The sons had already placed themselves under a death sentence.**

**Even though Hophni and Phinehas had no one to intercede for them, Jesus continues to be our intercessor.  
Hebrews 7:23-27      Romans 8:34**

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<b>Things to Think About</b>
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**Hophni and Phinehas had no regard for God. They knew *about* him but did not *know* him. Do you know God or do you know about God?**

**Have you ever used your position of power and privilege for personal gain or pleasure? Is there something that God wants you to do about that time in your life?**

**Read Proverbs 3:1-6. What is God's design for growing in stature and favour with God and men?**

**Think about Eli's role as father and as priest? Where did he do okay and where did he mess up?**

**What do you think about God's judgment on Eli and his sons? Appropriate? Necessary? Harsh?**

**How do you maintain your honour as a Christian in a non-Christian culture?**

**In what ways has God honoured you?**

**How do you (will you) honour God?**

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