

Eli's Sin

12-06-15AM

1 Samuel 3:12-13 *"In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them."*

In 1 Samuel 2 we are told about the sins of Eli, the High Priest and Judge of God. Eli might have been a great man of faith who could have been one of the men listed in Hebrews 11. Instead his record is one of failure. His sin was actually in his sons, who walked in iniquity. However, God held Eli accountable too because Eli knew and did nothing. Perhaps we might sum up his sin as this: knowing the right thing to do, but not doing it.

Sound familiar? In James 4:17 James writes: *"Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin"*. That message is for us. In context, James 4:13-17 speaks about the uncertainty of the future and the sin of speculation. Thus, we might conclude that the specific point is in not knowing your time is limited and not acting with that immediacy; not knowing your ability and choosing not to act; not knowing your master's will when it has been fully revealed to you. All things that we can know or do know, but do not act properly towards that purpose.

What do you know to do? Let us walk through a few examples of things you know you ought to be doing, but maybe you are not fully applying yourself to the purpose of completing:

To increase your talents? Matthew 25:14-30

To increase your prayers? Colossians 4:2

To increase your understanding? 2 Tim. 2:15

To increase your works? Philippians 2:12

Now let us go back to Eli and consider him. We might say that three times he realizes what he is to do: first, when he himself rebukes his sons for their conduct; second, when the man of God rebukes him; third, when Samuel reveals God's message to him. Three times Eli knew what to do, but did not do it. After the third admonition, Eli makes this reply: "It is the LORD; let Him do what seems good to Him." (1 Samuel 3:18). Eli did not repent, he simply stated "God will do as He wishes".

Do not be as Eli, a man of great faith and service who was brought down because he knew the right thing to do and did not do it. If God speaks to you (through His word) and tells you what you ought to be doing, make certain your reply is "I will do it".