



Two Different Stories in I Samuel 3
P James • October 15, 2017

- I. Eli's Family and Impending Disaster.
 - A. "Eli's sons were scoundrels..." (I Samuel 2:1).
 - B. They were bullying people in the very acts of sacrifice.
 - C. Eli rebuked them, and they refused to listen (I Sam 2:25).
 - D. Eli received a prophecy against his house, and he still didn't control his sons. What's wrong with this?
 - E. We learn from I Samuel 4:18 that Eli was one of the judges who led Israel. He was in charge! He didn't discipline his sons when they showed contempt for God.

- II. Samuel's Ministry to Eli (I Samuel 3).
 - A. We don't know how old Samuel is in I Samuel 3:1.
 - B. The Lord called Samuel three times before Eli understood and instructed Samuel on how to respond (I Samuel 3:9).
 - C. The Lord called Samuel a fourth time and Samuel learned that God was bringing the promised judgment on Eli's household because Eli "failed to restrain his sons."
 - D. Eli seems to receive the difficult word from Samuel in a gracious manner (I Samuel 3:18).
 - E. All that God said about Eli's house came true in I Samuel 4.

- III. Why are these two stories woven together? What's the point?
 - A. Eli could have changed at any point. His faith failed him.
 - B. Samuel had good reason to pay attention and learn obedience.
 - C. What are we meant to learn?
 - D. Think of how much more we have as disciples who have received the Spirit!
 - E. Offer your heart again to our Lord Jesus!
 - F. We have the Holy Spirit! Today is the day for change!