

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"Family Godliness"

1 Samuel 2:11-26

Introduction

1.. The presence of a dedicated man within a defined situation will always bring to light a contrast with that which is not dedicated unto the Lord. No one can read the text for this study without being aware of huge differences in family situations.

2. But let it be registered and affirmed that family godliness is the direct result of family dedication. It is not in any sense the result of unknown and questionable criteria.

3. This premise is illustrated in the home of Samuel. A careful study of the following two areas relating to him will support this affirmation.

1. PARENTAL.

A study of the parents of Samuel reveals that they performed several important and commendable matters.

a. Regulated. vv. 11, 20.

One of the most beautiful sentiments expressed in this story is that Elkanah and Hannah had a home and not just a house. Twice in this text it is noted they were in one place whilst their boy was in another! Both Biblically and sociologically the home is a factor in spiritual dedication which cannot be ignored. In a true sense, one's spirituality is no higher than what it is in the home! The work of the Lord was never designed to bring frustration to the home!

b. Worshipped. v. 19.

Here is the blessed balance in dedication. Some lay too much emphasis upon the home; others too much on the church! These parents made neither mistake. Duet. 16:16 was important in the spiritual life of Israel. This home saw to its obedience. Whereas there are no legal bounds on the saints today, nevertheless, the Scriptures still stand: Heb. 10:25. In many cases neglect has overpowered support!
NOTE: They gave to the Lord despite Eli!

c. Rewarded. vv. 20, 21.

God is not unmindful of those who obey Him and give Him first order in their lives. There is NOTHING lost by loving God! Give Him one and He gives five!

2. FILIAL

The lives of the parents in this situation are indeed commendable. They leave everything to rejoice about. In such a climate, it is not surprising that their child named in the text flourished in the Lord.

a. Served.

The verb for "minister" in the original means a service unto the Lord in the priestly ritual. His service was in the face of the Lord (v. 18). How different from many who perform in the presence of people!

A remarkable statement is made, however, that he was yet "a child" (v. 18). Although this word means an infant in some passages, it obviously is pointing up his extreme juniority.

How blessed it is when there are young men with a real serious dedication unto the

Lord. Their paucity does not mean their entire absence.

b. Progress. vv. 21, 26.

The idea of being static in his relation with the Lord was foreign to Samuel. Two phrases indicate this: "he grew before the Lord" (v. 21) and he "grew on." The former of these two uses a verb which denotes strength gained (from wrestling). With twisting and binding, his power was increased. Now the second verb is used in conjunction with the adjective form of the previous verb and has the resultant meaning: "he went on growing and growing." Hence, he grew more and more. This is precious: no plateaus, but constant ascent!

c. Favoured. v. 26.

Just as his parents were blessed because they had honoured the Lord, so Samuel stood high before the Lord and the people. Let no one ever feel that to give the Lord the place and prominence He desires is to seek a lower position. The Lord stands by His Word!

Conclusion

What does all this teach? Many things! But certainly prime amongst them is this: if you don't know the Lord, you need to know Him in order that your life might experience the bounty He has in store for those who are His. If you do know the Lord but have been niggardly in your dedication, take the example given in this text to learn what you are missing. Here is a specific principle of the Word: "give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. . ." (Luke 6:38).