

Title: Is There Hope For The American Family?

Text / Samuel 2:12-17

Our subject this morning: IS THERE HOPE FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY?

Let's turn in our Bibles to I Samuel chapter 2. In this passage of scripture there is a classic story of a family that went to ruin and destruction because they violated the principles of God. A family that gives us much in way of leaning and wisdom and insight as to ~~how~~ how we ourselves should operate in our homes.

I Samuel chapter 2 beginning at Vs 12.....(Read Vs 12-17; 22-30; 3:11-14
4:12-22) out

Join me in a moment of prayer

Father, we thank you for this story. It is just as relevant today as ~~when~~ when it happened. Father we know that there are issues here that everyone of us must understand. God, speak to our hearts we pray. In Jesus name. Amen

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Things are getting bad in terms of the family. And I don't want to be pessimistic for pessimism sake because I am an optimist in terms of what the Word of God ~~can~~ can do in families. *God can change families*

But, I am amazed at what is going on. And I just want to share a couple of things. It would be impossible to tell you all that is going on. Time does not permit.

To say that there is a plot and a plan to destroy the family is probably a little harsh. But it certainly appears that way. It appears that there ^{are} people in this nation of ours who are out to destroy the principles of the family as taught in the Word of God. At least they are seriously ~~challenging~~ challenging every Biblical principle and foundation.

To bring it down ~~to~~ ^{what} to our front door. *I have an article* ~~This article~~ that I would like to share with you, appeared ⁱⁿ the Torrance High School Newspaper. It was authorized by a certain English teacher in that High School. The article ~~was~~ was entitled: "God, the Mother, the daughter, and the Holy Ghostess...."

And here is what the ^{student} ~~author~~ wrote: *Paul*

"I checked the ounce measurement on my beer bottle and glanced at the clock, a nursery lamp provides the light to see when my next feeding is. My laughter echo's in the bottle. I had myself and the baby mixed up again. I take another drink and salute my mother who was not a chemist because her place was in the home. With more of the golden bitterness I drink to Grandmother, the only one of 7 daughters who didn't go to college. Only one finished anyway and she was a Nun. In ~~passing~~ ^{passing} I cheer my Great Grandmother, the would-be ^{women} ~~suffrage~~ gette with 13 children. People say I look like her. Will I to commit ^{suicide} ~~suicide~~ by child birth. My daughter ^{stirs} ~~stirs~~ in her crib. Will she spend nights like this rocking and drinking and crying? Will she salute the mother who betrayed her by doing little that I wanted to? Will she join the generation of ~~women~~ ^{women} who raised daughters only to raise daughters and stay home....."

That friends is going on all over the place.....That is blaspheming just in case you didn't ~~hear~~ hear it right!! That is a total attack against the Word of God. That is a total attack against what God is saying in His Word about the principles of marriage and the principles of family life and having children. If you don;t think that there is a nation wide movement against the principles of the home, then you have your head in the sand.

Arguments in support of abortion ^{have become accepted doctrine in} ~~are receiving critical~~ attention in our country. And frankly, I am sick and tired of people who are defending what the Bible calls wrong. And if you get mad at me today, well, God bless you. I love you anyway. But it is about time we had some moral courage put back into our backbones, spiritually.

The Bible teaches that the baby is alive in the wome. The Bible teaches that the Bâby is alive from the moment of conception. It is a mediactal know fact that the result of that sperm conceiving is a whole different set of chromosomes from the mother. When in the world ^{don't you} are we going to face what is not only true medically, but also spritually? In the Bible, over and over again, the Baby in thw wome is a real person, and alive ^{and} able to communicate with God.

God cares about that baby, ~~in the womb~~ ^{and}. It is about time we wake up. Abortion on demand. I think you ought to ask every politician what he believes on that issue. People are going to sleep. In 1973 when the Supreme Court ~~changed its view on abortion~~ ^{gave us "Women Right" decision}, do you have any idea of how many abortions have occurred since then? ~~Wake up people.~~ ^{I AM TOLD} Around 1 million legal abortions have occurred per year since the Supreme Court's decision. And people tell us that there are at least another 1 million that are illegal performed each year. 14 years

I am not here concerned whether or not there was rape or the life of the mother was at stake. ~~Lesson~~ ^{Lesson}, according to all the facts, even those who strich the facts, only 3% at the most, out of all those abortions, have any justifiable medical reason for doing it. More babies were aborted in 1985 in Washington D.C. and New York city than were actually born alive. The average age of human death for the U.S. population became so bad because of abortion, that they now have to add the phrase "Before Birth."

^{over} Half the abortions are performed on married women who no longer want their children because it interrupts their career.

A third of the abortions are paid for by taxes of people like you and me in order to allow this thing to go on. It is murder and everybody knew it. But we are afraid to say so.

Well, I want you to know that I am going to say something. It is about time we wake up. Abortion is only the beginning. It is only a Sunday School picnic as to what they are going to do.

If the gay rights movement had their way, you will see a total wipe out of the principle of family life and marriage by legal ceremony.

We need to wake up. Our society is becoming a single society. And I know there are many hardships and many problems. And I know that the Bible exalts the single state that is truly a gift of spiritual celibacy. But when there is no gift, when there is that passion for physical desire the Bible tells you what is God's plan. God's plan is marriage.

And the Bible teaches that the parent is responsible for the child. Not the state...not the government...And we ought not to support any of it.

The day is soon coming when we will no longer have a voice. We will no longer be able to stand up and be counted. And to say what we believe is right based upon the Word of God.

I care not whether it is a Democrat or a Republican or who he is, the issues before^{us} in this election is moral, it is spiritual. There are issues that are conflicting with the Word of God. And Christians we had better stand up and be counted.

The American family is under attack. Those who are committed to marriage and the home and family life and godly principles in the home are being constantly made fun of in the news media and T.V....

And friends I urge you to come back and face the issues of the Word of God. In this story ~~and~~ Eli and his two sons, I see ⁴ immediate dangers to the American family. ⁴ immediate dangers... *which explains why we are where we are.*

Is there hope for the American Family? Some people think there isn't. They are scared to death. But there is hope. But let's look at these dangers:

We are going to look at two things. The dangers and the decisions that you and I must make. If we have any desire, if we have any courage, if we have any commitment at all, to change what is happening in this country, then we are going to have to make some serious decisions.

What are the dangers involved.

(1) Number one, the danger in Eli's home was a lack of commitment. A lack of commitment to the Lord, himself, ^{and} to wrong values in his life.

Look, please, at chapter 2 verse 12 ~~In Verses 12-16~~ ^{This verse} tells us that Eli's sons were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. ^{yet, they were priests} And their custom was very unusual. They disobeyed the Lord in the ^{custom} custom. They stuffed a three-pronged fork into a boiling pot of the sacrificial meat. They were not to take it at that point. But these men, according ~~to~~ ^{to} the Bible in Vs 14, were taking it for themselves. And then they would say to those who brought the sacrifice, "You give it to us before we burn it." That also, was against the Word of God. ~~These priests were self-centered~~ ^{These priests were self-centered} They were materialist. They were selfish to the core.

Dear friends, it is always easy to disobey the Lord's instruction once you begin to operate out-off selfish desire and ambition. In this country, we are being encouraged to get all we can, now, and can all we get. It is every person for himself. Make what you can...Spend it on yourself..And try to be happy in the few moments that we have before distruction comes. We are becoming every Epecrian: "Eat, drink, and be marry for tomorrow we die.

^{and}
~~NOV!~~ WHAT IS THE ISSUE? A lack of commitment to the Lord, himself.

And the answer is so simple. It is found in God's people . When God gave the principles of revival, He said that it started with God's people. "If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I forgive their sins and heal their land."

You see, the way God is going to change the nation is always done with His people. Not the unbelievers. It is with God's people. When God's people get right with God, things are going to change.

So, we have this problem. A lack of commitment to the Lord of host. Due to improper values. And I ask you. Is that true of you? Is there a lack of commitment because other things are more important than the Lord Jesus Christ and His church?

(2B) Secondly, there was a lack of concern for spiritual things due to incorrect prorities in Elis's family.

Look down at verse 29. It says, "Why do you kick at my sacrifices and at my offering." There was a lack of concern for spiritual things.

And notice the emphases there in Vs 29.."to honor your sons above me." Listen, dear parants..I don't care how much you love your children. If your child comes between you and God, you are on the wrong track..

God is the author of what is done in the family. God is the author of what is right to do. God is the one who demands ^{our} complete loyalty and commitment. And God is the one who is in charge of the blessings. God will bless us when things are right in our lives. ^{and} The accusation against Eli could come to many parents. "You honor your son's before me."

You know, a child, even to respond to God must see that response in the parents life. Listen, parents, does your children know that God is number one in your life?....That nothing comes between you and the Lord. If things do come between you and the Lord, even if it is your own children, the Bible teaches that there will be a growing lack of concern for spiritual things. Commitment will be pulled out-off your heart. ~~You cannot love in~~ ~~But~~ ~~except~~

and

In Matthew 6, it teaches us to not be concerned about food and drink and clothes. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.

Oh, We need to wake up to the fact. Eli was unable to trust God to meet his needs because temporal values were more important to him then eternal values. How about your life? Are temporal values, things of this world, are they more important to you than eternal values?

That is the danger to the American Family? A lack of concern due to incorrect priorities.

(3B) Third, ~~we see this~~ in the life of Eli. ~~And that is a lack of control over his children's actions, due to insufficient discipline.~~ A lack of control over children's action due to insufficient discipline.

^{Notice} ~~we want you to~~ chapter 3 verse 13. God told Samuel what he was going to do to Eli. vs 13..."For I have told him that I am about to judge his ^{house} ~~house~~ forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them."

Listen, Eli's problem was that he waited to long. Now, ^{all of a sudden} he is concerned because they are committing immorality. Hay, listen, Eli should have rebuked them, he should have corrected them, he should have disciplined them long before. But he refused to ^{desecrate} ~~do that~~ with his children.

He could argue as many do, "But my sons are in christian service. They are Priest. They are ministering for the Lord."

That didn't make it right. Some times we use our religion to justify our sin. ^{Don't we?} ~~Oh~~...Eli's sin was that he failed to discipline his children.

I think the hardest thing that a parant has to do is to discipline his children. It is not really that difficult to have fun with them. ^{But when} ~~It is not~~ ^{you discipline} ~~really that difficult.~~ You have to take the time. ~~But it is not that hard.~~ ~~But it is very difficult to discipline them.~~ To discipline the way that God tells you to in his word, is very difficult.

^{also} It is very difficult to teach your children the principles of God's Word. And yet, God wrote to ~~parants~~ parants that there are two things that we are responsible for. He said, "Parants bring your children up in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord." Bring them up to what?..... To maturaity... ^{a mature adult} "How will children become matane? ...The Bible says because parants discipline and teach their children.

That is a very important issue. Lack of control over children's action. If you don't think we have a problem here, you have your head in the sand...

Oh, how we need parants who are willing to discipline their children. The Bible teaches that we are to apply the rod. I don't care what the world says. But we are to use the rod. Not in angry or hostile. But in loving discipline. A Father and mother who love their child~~te~~ according to the Bible are those who disncipline them. Those who hate their children, will not discipline them ~~with~~ the rod. That is what the Bible says.....

~~Don't~~ Don't tell me that you love your kids, if you will not discipline them. Love pays the supreme sacrifice. Sometimes love has to apply a little bit of hurt for the one that you love so much. The Bible says, "Better are the wounds of a friend then the kisses of an ~~enemy~~ enemy."

If you really love your children and you want to see them grow up to be responsive to God, then you had better understand what discipline is all about. Eli paid an alfull price because he refused to discipline his children.

(49) There is a fourth danger to the American Family seen in Eli's life. And that is ~~a~~ a lack of character in dealing with sin ^{due} to a poor example

This involves saying one thing and doing another. Let me show you this in the life of Eli. Chapter 2 verse 22 says....(Read Vs 22-25)

They would not listen to the voice of their father."....The idea of the word "listen" is that of "a response." Because you know that the one saying it has a character to back it up. They wouldn't listen to their father.

People often say about this story. It was the son's who had sinned. Not according to the Bible. Verses 28-29 clearly indicate that Eli was guilty. God directs it right to him. He says "You did it." Eli's example was not there. And so he lacked character in dealing with sin. He never came to his boys and said, "Do you know the trouble you are getting me into?"

Have you ever said that to your kids?.....

Well, maybe like Eli you said it to late. When all Israel heard about ~~the~~ sin of his sons, then he came to them and ask them to stop. But it was to late. They would not listen to their father. *why? Because Eli had no character*

And every ~~parent~~ ^{parent} knows the truth here. Hay, we can tell our ^{kid} sons many things. But when they don't see it in our lives, there is no way they are going to respond to it. A lack of character in dealing with sin.

I like what one writer said in commenting on the immorality in America today. He said the problem is not really with the kids, it is with the parents. And believe you me, that is the truth.

Oh, I know that kids are wrong for sining just as much as their parents. And the Bible says so. We are responsible for our own sin. [But, listen, if we reap to the wind, we reap the world wind. And if parents continue to get involved in immoral practice and continue to violate God's moral laws, they will pay the price in their children. The children are following the example of their parents. They refuse to discipline. They can't deal with sin. Because they lack moral character. [Listen, you can never effect the lives of others when you yourself are guilty of the things you want them to stop. That is what is wrong in this country. When our leaders no longer have a moral example, who can trust their ~~word~~ word? Who can depend upon them? I say, we ought to remove every person from office who continues in immorality.

The Bible says that the wisdom that we need is first pure. We need Godly examples. Parents I ask you: You are a Christian..Praise the Lord..You love Christ..Praise the Lord...But listen when these things are continuing to be entertained in the lives of Christians, no wonder we have problems in this country. No wonder we have problems in our own homes. This is a big issue. Dealing with sin. Poor examples.

5) And there is a fifth thing. And it is a great danger to the family as seen in the life of Eli. And that is a lack of confidence in the Lord due to an incomplete trust in his provisions and purposes.

I was amazed at Eli's whole reaction. When the man in chapter 4 came back from the battle, Eli is trembling with fear for what is going to happen. The amazing thing is that the Messianic line was continued.....The amazing thing is that God had a whole plan in operation. Yet, when that woman finally had a child, that woman had more discernment than Eli.

He said "Ichabod" "the glory has departed". The ark of God was taken. The Ark represented God's presence in their midst. That he was controlling society. They had forsaken it. They had gone the way of all flesh. And that woman Phin'e'us, knew what the problem was. And she named her son in fulfillment of that knowledge. Ichabod...The glory has departed from Israel.

Listen, friends, when our commitment is no longer to the Lord but to our own selfish desires and ambitions, HY!! the glory has departed. It is gone.

And what happens is that there is a lack of confidence in our life to the Lord and His purposes and in his plan. Because we don't have a complete trust in Him. We are not really trusting him.

If Eli had been trusting God, he would never have ~~stolen~~ stolen that meat. If Eli was trusting God, he never would have let his sons continue in rebellion. But he was n't trusting God to meet his needs. He lacked confidence in a Lord who has promised to supply all of our needs. He had a bad ethical standard in his life. He began to compromise and cut corners.

And by the way, it doesn't happen over night. It happens slowly. And one day Eli wrote up to the fact that the Priestly line would not continue in his family. That everything he hoped for was taken away from him.

cut
His sons were killed. His line was cut off. Why? Because the glory of God had departed....Why?...Because one man, a priest, had failed to obey God's Word. If there was ever a story to show us the seriousness of a Father in his home, it is this ~~old~~ story of Eli.

OK
(2nd) WHAT DECISION SHOULD WE MADE? If we really understand this, what decisions must be made in our own lives? What decision, if there is to be any hope for the American Family?

Sally
On the bases of this story I want to give you ⁴ five decision that I believe can turn this country around and can turn your whole life around right now. Your whole life, your family life can be changed, in one moment of time, if you are willing to make these decisions.

(1st) Number one, disobedience to Biblical standards of morality must be stopped
Christians stop compromising. Stop going along with ~~it~~. Stop being quite when ~~this~~ ^{sin} is constantly being paraded before us. I don't care if people say that everyb ody agrees to that. I don't care if you stand alone. Then stand alone. But holed up your head and be counted. Biblical standards are what God wants. And God is going to honor the person who is committed. Stop being disobedient yourself to what God says is wrong. *Let your Yes Be Yes and your No Be No*

It is clear in the Bible as to what sin is, no matter what the world is saying. You don't need any redefinition of sin. The Bible is very clear. So, stop the disobedience to Biblical standards of morality. And our homes will began to recover from the moral confusion that they are in now.

(2nd) Number two, we must make the decision to restore discipline to the family
Discipline must be restored in the family. Some folks say, "Well, it is to late. My kid is four now."

Friends, it is never to late. It is never to late to go to your own children and ~~ask~~ them to forgive you and apologize to them for your lack of discipline and your lack of goldly example and say, "Listen, I have made a decision in my heart today. This home is going to have a new Daddy. He is going to be ~~committed~~ / committed to the Lord. And I want you to pray for me. That I might be a man/ of God."
Woman

Oh, God give us men of God. We need ~~people~~^{men} who can stand up in their homes and be spirit filled men. We are suffering from ~~it~~^{A Lack of Spirit Filled men} people. Even in the church of Jesus Christ, we are suffering from it. [A lack of Biblical godly men] who will say in their homes, Pray for me. I want to be the man that God wants me to be."

Listen, your children will have more respect for you ~~than~~ then they have had all their life.

And then prove it by a godly example. And live it according to the pattern of God's Word. It is never to late.

Thank God, that he doesn't give up on ~~people~~^{us}. Aren't you glad of that? Some of you know that. You got saved rather late in life.

Oh, parants, it is never to late. Biblical discipline must be restored in homes to change the tide of what is going on.

(3) And number three. we must develop ~~correct~~^{Christian} goals and values. They need to be re-emphasized in every family. You see, Eli's problem was that he lost sight of values: of what is right and what is wrong. ^{His} Goals in life ~~are~~^{are now} self-centered. And as a result his family went down the tubes. We have got to change our minds as to what is ~~important~~ important, what is worthy whiled. 1 Cor. 10:31 says, "whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, do all to the glory of God."

Jesus when he ascended into heaven said: "Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations."

Few people spend time in evangelism and discipleship. Yet we say, "Ah, I am living for God."....ARE ~~we~~^{we}?.....

Listen, Jesus commanded us to be witnesses in the world. What do you think children think when parants never witness? What do you think children think when their parants are never committed to spiritual goals? Who never manifest in the family what is really important. Who continue to go towards selfish goals? ~~The development of correct goals and values~~

Listen, what is wrong and what is right is in the ~~World~~^{World of God}. The Bible says in James 4:17, "to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not is sin." That is what the Bible says.

(4B) Number four. If we really want to strighten out our families there must be a dedication to ^{God, Himself} ~~Biblical~~ priorities. They must be returned to our understanding, and our practice.

Matthew 6:33 says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. God is number one. Eli's problems were in the area of wrong ~~prorities~~ prorities. He honored his sons before God.

What is the most important thing in your life? Listen, we can't run our families without God. How in the world do we know how to run our families without the help of God? We need to spend more time in pray on our knees seeking God's wisdom and help for our families.

I challenge all the Fathers and mothers in the service, today. Are you spending time each day praying for your children. "Lord, God, make my child what you want him to be." "And help me to be the kind of parant that would manifest Christ to them."

*are you praying for your grandkids?
OR - Put check down - people down*

I ask you,,, "Are you doing that?.....How committed are we? What is really important in our lives? If we want to change this in our own life and in the life of this nation, then we are going to have to dedicate ~~ourselves~~ ourselves to ^{Living For Jesus} ~~Biblical~~ priorities. And God is going to have to be number one.

To love God with all of our hearts, with all of our souls, and with all of our minds. ~~Have you given your heart and life to Jesus? Have you fallen on your knees and confessed your sin and asked Jesus to forgive you and save your life?~~

(5) And finally, a principle that flows out-off the last one, devotion must be to God, first,.....Above evertthing else. That must be re-estished in every life. Jesus said in Matt 22 "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, and soul and mind. God must be number one in your life."

Oh, how we need people who will fall on their face and cry out to the Lrd, "God, I give you my all every day of my life." And there are examples throughout history of how God takes a person and changes ^{the} their life.

^{oh} listen, this half hearted decision making in christianity today isn't going to do it. It is devotion to God first. To love him with all your heart. To realize that Jesus died for you. And he is the only hope in this world. To trust Jesus for everything.

And when the kids in the home see Mom and Dad totally dependent upon the living Christ who is coming again, then their home will be changed.....Then children will begin to respond to the Lord and respond to His Word. WHY?..... Because Mom and Dad are committed to Jesus Christ and His Church....And when homes are changed, the nation will be changed.

May God help you to see this today. And may God help you to turn your life over to Jesus Christ. And may Christ and His church be number one in your life.

Let's close with a word of prayer