

THEM THAT HONOR ME
God Gets His First

I. **Eli's sons' dishonor for God showed up in 2 big ways-1.Put themselves ahead of God (took theirs first, took the best) 2.In how they treated God's things-1Sm2:12-KJ-The sons of Eli were sons of Belial; THEY KNEW NOT THE LORD (regard, respect, care; **NIRV-Honor; CSB-Respect; ER-Care about**). ¹³And the priest's custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething (boiling), with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand; ¹⁴And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither. ¹⁵Also BEFORE THEY BURNT THE FAT, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden (boiled) flesh of thee, but raw. ¹⁶And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and THEN take as much as thy soul desires; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force. ¹⁷Wherefore THE SIN OF THE YOUNG MEN WAS VERY GREAT BEFORE THE LORD: for men ABHORRED THE OFFERING OF THE LORD. ²²Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. ²³And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people. ²⁴Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the Lord's people to transgress. ²⁵If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man SIN AGAINST THE LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the Lord woul slay them. ²⁷And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Did I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house? ²⁸And DID I CHOOSE HIM out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel? ²⁹Wherefore kick ye at MY SACRIFICE and at MINE OFFERING, which I have commanded in MY HABITATION; and HONOUREST THY SONS ABOVE ME, to MAKE YOURSELVES FAT WITH THE CHIEFEST OF ALL THE OFFERINGS of Israel MY PEOPLE? ³⁰Wherefore the Lord God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me forever: but now the Lord saith, BE IT FAR FROM ME; FOR THEM THAT HONOUR ME I will honour, and they that DESPISE ME shall be lightly esteemed.**

- A. Honor is value and treatment—How much you value something how you treat it
- B. There are degrees of honor—You can be saved and have a degree of honor for God and be interested in what God can do for you (God loves ME, He wants ME blessed, MY relationship with God), but not care much about His things—**Ps37:4**
- C. They honored themselves above the Lord: "Before they burnt the fat"—Before God got His, they took theirs and they took the best (they and their stuff is more important to them than God and His stuff)

II. **In a life of honor God and His things are first because they're valued the most**

- A. In the offerings, The Lord was to get His first and they got what was left—**Lev2:1**—When any will offer a meat (grain) offering unto the Lord..² he shall bring it to Aaron's sons the priests: and he shall take thereof his handful of the flour thereof, and of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof; and the priest shall burn the memorial of it upon the altar, to be an offering made by fire, of a sweet savor unto the Lord: ³ And THE REMNANT (LEFT) OF THE MEAT OFFERING SHALL BE AARON'S AND HIS SONS..10 THAT WHICH WAS LEFT
- B. Many take care of all their stuff first and The Lord gets what's left—The pay all their bills, they do all the stuff they want and need to do and then if they have any time, money or energy left they might do something for the Lord --- **He and His things are not the priority, but an afterthought**
 - 1. Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness means God and His things are the priority—**Mt6:33**—Seek (be about, go about) first (order of importance) the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things will be added to you
 - a. A major component in seeking first the Kingdom is prioritizing the church He called you to and the part you play at that church—The church/body of Christ is made up of churches/parts which and each part/church has a specific function; God hooks individuals to a church/part

2. God and His things are THE priority NOT an afterthought—It doesn't mean you can't do anything else, but it does mean nothing else is ahead of Him
3. There can only be one first—If God is first then you, your marriage, your kids, your hobbies, your career is not first

C. Their house was first, then God's house—**Hag1:3**—Thus speak the Lord of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the Lord's house should be built. ³Then came the word of the Lord by Haggai the prophet, saying, ⁴Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? ⁵Now therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁶Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. ⁷Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Consider your ways. ⁸Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be GLORIFIED (honored), saith the Lord. ⁹Ye looked for much, and, lo it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the Lord of hosts. Because of MINE HOUSE that is waste, and ye run every man unto HIS OWN HOUSE (CJ—Take care of his own house).¹⁰Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. ¹¹And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labor of the hands. ¹²Then Zerubbabel..with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the Lord their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the Lord their God had sent him, and the people did FEAR (reverence, honor, respect) before the Lord. ¹³Then spake Haggai the Lord's messenger in the Lord's message unto the people, saying, I AM WITH YOU, saith the Lord. ¹⁴...they came and did work in THE HOUSE OF THE LORD of hosts, their God; **2:18—CEV**—Today you have completed the foundation for my temple, so listen to what your future will be like. Although you have not yet harvested any grain, grapes, figs, pomegranates, or olives, I will richly bless you in the days ahead

1. Lack of honor for God is the foundation upon which problems are built—**Mt6:25-33**

a. You will not God's blessing without Him getting your honor—**Ma1:9—GNT**—Now you priests, trying to asking God to be good to us. He will not answer your prayer, and it will be your fault; **TL**—God have mercy on us, you recite; God be gracious to us! But when you bring that kind of gift, why should he show you any favor at all?

2. Their attitude vs. David's attitude (1Ch17:1)—David was a man of honor

3. God didn't say they couldn't have a nice house—Theirs can't be ahead of His

D. Our lives are an offering to the Lord and with our lives God gets His first—**Rm12:1**—Present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service; **ER**—Offer your lives as a living sacrifice to Him; **MS**—Take your everyday, ordinary life...and place it before God as an offering

1. We are not fitting Him into our busy schedule, but He is our life—**Co3:4**—When Christ who is our live shall appear; **Dt30:20**—For He is your life; **Mt10:39**—He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it

E. Many don't put God's things first because they don't value them enough—There are things more important to them than God's things and they are the priority --- Honor for God begins with attaching a high value to Him and His things