

GOD CARES ABOUT YOUR LIFE'S WORK!

TAKE A MOMENT TO EXAMINE HOW YOUR WORK MIGHT BE USED TO WORSHIP/ HONOR GOD. WHETHER YOU'RE A TEACHER IMPACTING CHILDREN, A POLICE OFFICER PROTECTING CITIZEN'S OF A COMMUNITY, OR A CLERK OF A SMALL BUSINESS, YOU EACH HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE YOUR LIFE'S WORK FOR THE GREATER GOOD. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY WILL OFTEN LIMIT THEIR WORK AS A WAY TO HELP THEMSELVES. YET, WITH THE HELP OF SCRIPTURE WE SEE THIS IS NOT THE WAY OF GOD. I HOPE OTHERS BEGIN TO SEE THE HIGHER PURPOSE OF OUR WORK.

THE AMOUNT OF TIME WE HAVE ON THIS EARTH, TO ENJOY LIFE AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, IS OFTEN MUCH SHORTER THAN ANY ONE OF US EVER DESIRES. BUT TO KNOW WE WASTED OUR LIFE DOING THE WRONG THINGS WOULD BE EVEN MORE FRUSTRATING TO HEAR. SO, INSTEAD OF LEARNING THIS FIRSTHAND, HOW ABOUT WE LOOK AT THE PAST MISTAKES OF OTHERS? LET'S LEARN, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, WHAT WE NEED TO SPEND OUR TIME DOING. NO MATTER THE KIND OF WORK WE DO, WE ALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO USE OUR TALENTS FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS AND THE GLORY OF GOD.

BEGIN

IN TODAY'S STORY, WE'LL SEE HOW GOD INTERVENES WHEN LEADERS FAIL TO HONOR HIM. AND, DURING THE PROCESS OF ELI AND HIS TWO SONS BEING REMOVED AS PRIESTS OF ISRAEL, WE'LL GET A GLIMPSE OF GOD'S FUTURE FOR HIS PEOPLE, THE CHURCH.

- **1 SAM. 2: 27,28**

ELI IS REMINDED OF GOD'S INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAEL'S HISTORY & THAT HE SERVES GOD

1. MIGHT WORSHIP OF GOD BE MORE SERIOUS, BENEFICIAL THAN WE EVER IMAGINE?
2. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU ACKNOWLEDGED GOD'S INVOLVEMENT IN YOUR LIFE?
3. EXAMINE THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU GIVE TO GOD AND TO OTHER THINGS. SHOULD IT BE ADJUSTED? WHAT KIND OF CORRECTIONS MIGHT YOU NEED TO MAKE IN YOUR LIFE?

- **1 SAM. 2: 29**

ELI IS REPRIMANDED FOR NOT TAKING HIS PRIESTLY DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES SERIOUSLY

1. WHAT ROLES ARE YOU ASSIGNED TO HONOR GOD?
2. AS A DISCIPLE, WHAT AREAS ARE YOU GROWING IN? BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE, WORSHIP, LOVE FOR OTHERS, SPIRITUAL GIFTS, FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, YOUR CHARACTER, SERVICE, FAITH, BENEVOLENCE, STEWARDSHIP, MINISTRY, THE BEAUTITUDES, ETC.
3. AS A LEADER, WHAT AREAS ARE YOU GROWING IN?

- **1 SAM. 2: 30-34 [FURTHER STORY CAN BE FOUND IN 1 SAM. 4:1-22]**

EVENTUALLY, ELI AND HIS SONS ARE REMOVED DUE TO DISHONORING GOD, AND THEIR DEATH

1. WHAT AREA OF YOUR LIFE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE FRUIT/ EVIDENCE OF GOD?
2. WHAT MAY BE DIEING AND YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN REALIZE IT?
3. WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A DREAM/VISION/WORD FROM GOD? WHAT KIND OF GOALS ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING TOWARD THAT WILL HONOR GOD?

END

- **1 SAM. 2: 35**

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM ----- FOREVER.
GOD INVITES LEADERS TO WORK ON HIS BEHALF AND BRING ATTENTION TO HIS ETERNAL WILL.
Q: HOW CAN OUR LIFE'S WORK BE USED TO BRING OTHERS INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

LET'S NOT END UP DISAPPOINTED OR FRUSTRATED AT THE END OF OUR LIFE'S WORK. TO DO THIS, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE ALL CREATED TO WORSHIP GOD. AS GOD'S PEOPLE WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO:
LOVE THE LORD OUR GOD, WITH ALL OUR HEART, SOUL, AND STRENGTH. [DEUT. 6: 5,6]

IF YOUR WORK DOESN'T WORSHIP/ HONOR HIM, MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TODAY.
HERE'S A FEW SUGGESTIONS:

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| 1. DWELL WITH GOD | PUT HIM FIRST IN YOUR LIFE'S WORK. |
| 2. DWELL WITH MANKIND | WORK WITH OTHERS TO EXPAND GOD'S WILL. |
| 3. DO WORK THAT HONORS GOD | FIND AND MEET PRACTICAL NEEDS. |

ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS:

Q: HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW GOD?

Q: IS YOUR LOVE FOR GOD GROWING AND BECOMING MORE COMPLETE?

Q: WHAT ARE YOU DOING TODAY, TO HELP THE WORLD SEE JESUS?

THE CHOICE IS YOURS, EITHER **HONOR GOD WITH YOUR WORK**, OR WASTE YOUR TIME INSTEAD WORKING FOR YOUR OWN NEEDS. I BELIEVE YOU WILL MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

LET US PRAY,

THAT WE BEGIN TO SEE GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE'S WORK. THAT WE LIVE UP TO HIS GREAT STANDARDS, AND WE HELP OTHERS EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF LIVING FOR HIM. AND IF WE SEE THAT OUR WORK IS HINDERING US FROM GETTING CLOSER TO GOD AND GIVING HIM GLORY, THEN I PRAY THAT WE MAKE SOME CHANGES. DEAR GOD, MAY YOU DRAW US CLOSER TO YOUR SIDE. MAY WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO GIVE YOUR GLORY, AND MAY WE BEGIN TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED SO THAT NO ONE MISSES THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR GOD.