

Men in the Bible

Applying Truths from Their Lives to Today

Eli & Achan

Eli

- Eli's responsibility (1 Sam. 1:9-17, 25-26; 2:18-20; 3:1; 4:13)
- Eli's sons and their character (1 Sam. 1:3; 2:12-17, 22-25; Lev. 7:29-34)
- God's judgment (1 Sam. 2:30-35; 3:13-18; 4:5-18)

Achan

- Israel's victory (Joshua 6:20-21)
 - God's command (Joshua 6:17-19)
 - Achan's disobedience (Joshua 7:1, 20-21)
 - God's judgment (Joshua 7:10-15; 22-26)
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- NOT MEN OF GOD THAT WE WANT TO MODEL

★ For us to be **God's man**, we must obey God, make the tough decisions, maintain the right priorities, and be a testimony for God before our family.

Discussion Questions

1. What was Eli's failure? How can we drift into making similar mistakes in our lives today? What did his actions reveal about his heart? How could he have rationalized his mistakes?

Eli did many good things, including the training of Samuel. However, Eli ignored sin in his son's lives. We can also fall into this trap by accepting comfort and acceptance from others over obedience to God. We can put our family relationships above our commitment to God. We must guard our heart and make sure we are completely devoted to God. But we should take note..... our failure to address sin causes us to lose influence over others and our failure impacts the lives of others.

2. What was Achan's failure? How can we drift into making similar mistakes in our lives today? What did his actions reveal about his heart? How could he have rationalized his mistakes?

Achan saw something he wanted and thought no one would know, including God. He disobeyed God. Never forget.... God sees (Proverbs 5:21). He also could have thought the amount he took was minor so one would really get hurt. Don't we sometimes justify sin in our minds? Achan could have thought his actions would bring wealth and comfort to his family but he failed to realize the consequences of disobedience. Again, take note.... our disobedience impacts others. In this case, his sin impacted the nation of Israel and his entire family.

3. How did God judge Eli's and Achan's actions? Did their actions only impact them? If not, who was impacted by their decisions? What does this remind us of the price of disobedience?

God judged their sin by ending their earthly life. And, in both cases, judgment came to their family, again with death. God hates sin. Far too often, we take sin lightly but God does not.

4. How can we guard against making similar mistakes made by Achan and Eli?

- a) *Remember the seriousness of sin.*
- b) *Honestly go before God and confess sin when it occurs. Repent immediately.*
- c) *Seek His will each day, yield your will and selfish desires to God, and go forward in obedience.*
- d) *Guard your heart against lust and covetousness for things of this world. (Proverbs 4:23)*
- e) *Keep focused on eternity and pleasing God.*
- f) *Remember the legacy you want to leave for your family.*

5. If we have made mistakes in our past (and we have), what does God say to us about going forward?

Remember we can go to God, confess our sins, repent from our sins, and God will forgive us (1 John 1:9). God wants us to go forward in service to Him but we must repent. There are examples of men's failures (example: Abraham's deceit) in Scripture and they continued to be used of God BUT they turned to God for leadership of their lives.

Commitment

Pray to God today. Ask God for forgiveness for failures in your life. Pledge your loyalty to God and tell Him you want a family that loves God and follows Him fully. Tell Him that you will be the man that stands firm for Him and lays aside the desire for popularity, convenience, and riches.