

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

How important is it for us as parents to discipline our children? You know we're living in a time where we're almost afraid to discipline them. And one of the reasons we're afraid to discipline them is because we don't think there are any absolutes. Our absolutes have gone. Instead of being black and white, now everything is gray and who knows what's right and who knows what's wrong. Well this is what you're going to discover as you study the Word of God and you're going to see the importance of disciplining your children.

PART ONE

One of the things I think we're discovering is that there is crying need to be parented. Children have missed their parents parenting them. In other words, being there, not as their friend, and not as just a housekeeper or a provider, but a parent who is there to teach them and to instruct them. And this is what we see as we look at 1 Samuel, chapter 2. We're going to see the importance

of parenting your children, the importance of disciplining your children so that they grow up and know how to reign in their passions. Well we have seen that the sons of Eli were worthless men. We saw that in 1 Samuel, chapter 2, verse 12. We know that their names are Hophni and Phinehas and we saw that in chapter 1 in verse 3. And we have seen that they have been despising the offering of the Lord. They're carrying on the work of priests, but when the sacrifices come instead of taking their portion in a way that is pleasing to God, they are just very self-centered, they are very, very aggressive and I don't want you to miss this, because I think a person that is not disciplined is an aggressive person many, many times. And I think that they just have learned, hey, the way I get my way is just insisting on it. The way I get my way is screaming or yelling or pouting or punishing and therefore this is the way I live. When I see something and I'm not getting my way I will pout or I will yell or I will punish or I will act this way. And I think also, because we're unparented many, many times and undisciplined that there is an anger inside of us and this is what you see in verse 16 of 2 Samuel, chapter 2 when the man bringing the sacrifice would say hey, you've got to burn the fat, then they would say no, but you shall give it to me now and if not I will take it by force. Now that's the servant of the priest, but where did he get that message from? From the priest, from Hophni or Phinehas. Now it says in verse 18: "Now Samuel was ministering before the Lord, as a boy wearing a linen ephod." (1 Samuel 2:18) Now if you have an Inductive Study Bible, on this page in your Bible you'll see some references to the ephod. The ephod had two parts to it. One was a part that was fastened on the shoulder of this linen ephod that would have the breast piece, which was fastened to the linen ephod, had a linen pouch and it held the Urim and the Thummim and those were like sacred lots that revealed God's will. But there was also the linen ephod, the robe and you see that in Exodus 28 and you see that it was blue. So here was this boy and he was wearing this linen ephod, not carrying the breast piece on him, but just wearing this little linen garment. And it says, "And his mother would make him a little robe and bring it to him from year to year when she would come up with her husband

to offer the yearly sacrifice.” (2:19) Now remember we’re marking time. We’re putting a green clock. So somewhere in this verse over year-to-year or over yearly sacrifice you need to put a time clock, because what you see is good news. You see, yes, Hannah has given Samuel to the Lord, and yes, he is going to stay and serve the Lord forever, and yet Hannah still has a part in his life. She’s still able to make him this little robe. She’s still able to see him year after year. In verse 20 it says, “Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, ‘May the Lord give you children from this woman in place of the one she dedicated to the Lord.’ And they went to their own home and the Lord visited Hannah; and she conceived and gave birth to three sons and two daughters.” (2:20-21a) Watch out; move over Peninnah. Here she is, she has her own sons and she has her own daughters and they all came because this was a woman of prayer. This was a woman that poured out her soul to the Lord. This is a woman that kept her word so that when God gave her the son that she prayed for she promised to give that son back to God. And you find the boy Samuel grew before the Lord. Now once again you’re going to see a contrast. You’re going to see a contrast between the boy, Samuel, the son of Hannah and Elkanah and the sons of Eli. Watch what it says, “Now Eli was very old; and he heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel...,” (2:22a) In other words, he heard what we studied yesterday. He heard about the sacrifice. He heard that the sons were doing what was wrong, that they were taking the fat and that they were getting more of the sacrifice than they should and that they were threatening the people. He heard this. And he also heard “...how they lay with the women who served at the doorway of the tent of meeting.” (2:22b) In other words, not only were they grabbing these sacrifices, but they were sleeping with these women that were supposed to be there serving the Lord, who were standing and serving at the doorway of the tent of meeting. I want you to go for just a minute to Exodus 38:8. It’s a good cross-reference and if you have an Inductive Study Bible you’ll find it in that margin with the cross-references. But in Exodus 38:8 it says: “Moreover, he made the laver of bronze with its base of bronze, from the mirrors of...,” now watch, “...the serving women who served at the

doorway of the tent of meeting.” (Exodus 38:8) So there was bronze laver. Now let me just say this. The bronze laver was there with these mirrors around it because as the priest came into worship God he had to wash his hands, he had to wash his feet, he had to show you know, that he was walking and serving God in holiness. Now there were serving women at the doorway. But as he comes to that laver it’s a reminder that God is holy and that God is to be treated as holy and that they needed to be cleansed. Well here are these guys and they are laying with the women who serve at the doorway of the tent of meeting and laying means to know them sexually. And so, “[Eli says] to them, ‘Why do you do such things...,’” And I’m in verse 23 of 1 Samuel 2. He says, “‘...Why do you do...the evil things that I hear from all these people? No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the Lord’s people circulating.” Now, this is what I did. I took a brown pencil, a colored pencil and I marked every reference to the sons of Eli. Brown is my color for sin. And so I colored it that way, but because I color sin brown, then I underlined it in brown also. So I can look down at my Bible and I can see every reference to the sons of Eli. Now why do I want to mark them? Well, because God’s saying something about it and He wants me learn something and because right from the beginning of 1 Samuel he’s let us know that Eli is a priest and he has two sons that are priests. Their names are Hophni and Phinehas. Now what he’s doing is he is showing us the corruption of the priesthood. He’s showing us what is happening during this time. And then he’s going to lift up Samuel as an example of what it ought to be. All right, you say well I didn’t know that Samuel qualified as a priest because what I read was that his father was Ephraimite. That’s right, his father was an Ephraimite, but we’ll see it later, he was one of the Koaphites, which was part of the priesthood that served God. We’re not going to go there right now because I want to focus on Eli’s sons, but I want you to see this contrast between a righteous man and unrighteous men and I want us to see, okay, why are these men unrighteous? Well one of the things that we see is Eli knows that what his sons are doing. Now remember we saw in our last program that if they ate the fat they were to be cut off from

the people. So Eli, now we find here that Eli knows what the people are doing and Eli doesn't step in and cut his sons off from the work of the Lord. And because he doesn't do that we see that in essence he is loving his sons more than he loves the Lord. I want you to see something. I want us to go to the New Testament, to Matthew, chapter 10 and Jesus is speaking. And He knows that there is going to be a conflict between this parental love of our kids or this parental desire for us to see our kids succeed and serving God, especially if our kids do not serve the Lord. So Jesus says in Matthew 10:34: "Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's enemies will be members of his [own] household." (Matthew 10:34-36) Now the question you have to ask is, why would God have this conflict with your own household? What would bring the conflict? Well this is what we need to understand and this is what we need to look at, because sometimes conflict comes. And when that conflict comes who are you going to side with? Whose side are you going to stand on? What are you going to uphold? Do you realize, Beloved, that all this has to do with parenting? In this generation, in a generation that says hey, there are no absolutes, hey, let them find their own way, let them decide on their own faith; leave them alone, don't you dare discipline them. If you discipline them, we'll report you. O, Beloved, what do you do? Well we'll talk about it right after the break.

PART TWO

Well beloved we've been looking at Eli and his two sons that have despised God and we found out that Eli knows that they despised God. Eli knows what they're doing is wrong and Eli has not removed them from the priesthood. He knows that they're even sleeping with the women that are serving at the doorway of the tent. I mean you talk about a scandal, I mean this is something that the newspapers would get a hold of today and they

would print that scandal and finally religious news would meet the front page and you would hear about the scandal in the church. Well, what we need to see is this, that it is a parents responsibility to stand on the side of God and to discipline their children for the purpose of godliness so that they are restrained and their little sinful hearts are brought under control until they come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. Just before the break we were in Matthew, chapter 10 and we were talking about how sometimes there's not peace in a family because Christ didn't come to bring peace, but a sword. In other words when Jesus Christ steps into our life He makes a division between righteousness and unrighteousness, between holiness and ungodliness and He expects us to be fully on His team. He expects us to live according to His Word, according to His commandments and that's why I am so proud of you. Thank you for wanting to know God's Word. Thank you for studying God's Word. Thank you for getting the study guide and downloading it and moving with us through the text. Thank you for giving this time to the Lord so that you might know God. Well in Matthew, chapter 10 in verse 37 He goes on to say after He says a man's enemies will be the members of his own household, and what causes this division, this sword that comes into a family is because some are going to serve the Lord and some are not going to serve the Lord. But when it comes to that, what your desire or your parental inclination is to just side with your kids and not do what God says and not bring the discipline because you love them and because you have all sorts of reasons and many of them are just foolish thinking. They're the wisdom of the world. Well if I do this, then they won't love God. Well, listen to what God says in Matthew 10, what Jesus says as He's standing and talking to the multitudes. He says, "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." (Matthew 10:37) Have you got that? So what do we see? We see Eli not disciplining his sons. We see Eli chastening his sons, rebuking his sons, but we don't see him doing what God says that he should do to his sons. What he should have done to his sons, number one is he should have cut them out, off from the house of God

because they weren't honoring the sacrifices. Number two, when he found out that they were sleeping with these women he should have stoned them to death, because that was the punishment for adultery. And yet he does not do this. He does not do this. It says in 1 Samuel, chapter 2, verse 23. "He said to them...", and you've marked them because you're marking the sons of Eli, "...Why do you do such things, the evil things that I hear from all these people? No, my sons; for the report is not good which I hear the Lord's people circulating. If one man sins against another, God will mediate for him; but if a man sins against the Lord, who can intercede for him...?" (1 Samuel 2:23-25a) In other words, you know if there's a complication in relationships, then God's going to mediate there. But when you come against God and you're flagrantly disobeying the Word of God, who can intercede, because God is not the intercessor there. God is the one that is being offended. He says, "...But they would not listen to the voice of their father...", and then this is a very interesting statement: "...for the Lord desired to put them to death." (2:25b) In other words, Eli would not discipline his sons. Eli would not put them to death. So God is going to put them to death. God is going to punish them for their sins. Proverbs talks a lot about disciplining your children and I would suggest that you read a chapter of Proverbs a day. There's one for everyday of the month and its thirty-one chapters of Proverbs. And as you do, pick one color that has to do with children, with a parent disciplining their children and then carry that out. You know as you go through you're going to find out that spanking is in the Bible. And as a matter of fact it says if you love your son then you need to spank him or you need to discipline them. Now this does not mean you beat them up. It does not mean that you misuse them. It means that the rod is what brings correction. Now our society says no. Our society says that it is wrong because of the abuse, but also because it doesn't believe the Word of God, because it doesn't believe the absolutes. But I remember when Mark, who is my second son was just being as mean as a snake as a little boy. I mean he was not behaving and he was just nasty. And I kept trying to reason with him and everything and finally I got weary of that and I remember we

lived in the old farmhouse at the entrance to Precept Ministries International, and our bedroom connected right on to the boy's bedroom. And I remember going in there and they had these bunk beds and I looked at Mark and I said Mark, I love you honey. I love you very, very much, but something is wrong and you are not obeying and you are being angry and I'm sorry, but I am going to have to discipline you. I'm going to have to spank you. And so I had him bend over and there's a place that God designed for spanking and it's got lots of padding and it's called the bottom. And so when I finished spanking him he turned around, he was on his knees, and he grabbed my legs and buried his head into my tummy and as he did he just cried and I held him and told him how much I loved him. And do you know, that that broke that stubbornness in that boy and that he came around and he was such a sweetheart after that; I mean just a sweetheart. And you know what? That sweetheart's grown up and that sweetheart is the COO, the Chief Operating Officer of Precept Ministries International. I disciplined my son and I gained a son for the work of ministry and O how he loves this ministry, and O how he loves our overseas work. And he says, "I just can't believe that God has allowed me to work here." But what if I had not disciplined him? What if I had let him continue to walk in his stubborn ways, what kind of a son would I have had then? Would I have had one that the Lord would have to have dealt with? O, Beloved, listen, either you deal with your children and you obey God or the Lord will have to deal with them. In other words, He'll have to come at other means and with other ways to break that child and to bring that child to a place of submission. Well, what are we going to see tomorrow? We're going to see what happens because all Eli did was say you shouldn't be doing it. But Eli didn't take action. And one of the things that you need to do and you need to remember that is if you tell your son or your daughter that you're going to do something, that you're discipline them and you don't carry through then you're teaching them not to believe God when God says He's going to discipline us. Remember He disciplines us because we're His children and because He loves us.