

B. How much God weighs in your universe effects how much you weigh in His!

C. The weight we ascribe God is purely a work of grace.

i. Romans 3:12

ii. 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- How do we see that Eli's sons disdained God? What evidences in the text do you find? What would it mean for you to disdain God?
- When you hear the expression, "your heart's gravitational pull on God," what comes to mind? How would you describe your own heart's gravitational pull on God?
- For those who are parents, how can we learn from Eli's poor example? How are we tempted in the same way he was? How might we also learn from Hannah and her good example?
- What would it mean for you to make room for God in your life? How are you doing that now? Where do you need to adjust?
- Did you make any New Year's resolutions this year?
- Psalm 13 describes those who disdain or despise God as those who think they will never be called to account. Why is it important for us to live our lives in light of that day of account?
- Would your life reflect an appropriate value on those for whom Christ died—those He values? Do you value Christ's bride, the redeemed—the church? How is this value revealed in your life?

How Much Does God Weigh?

Jerry Cisar — January 3, 2016

Text: 1 Samuel 2:12-36

Introduction: Adjusting Your Gravitational Pull on God

I. How Much did God weigh to Eli's Sons (12-17)

A. The question of God's worth in 1 & 2 Samuel.

i. 1 Samuel 13:14

ii. Acts 13:22

The account of Eli's sons and what they are doing with offerings gets to the heart of how we value God, or don't—whether our hearts have the appropriate gravitational pull on God, or not.

B. Eli's sons were scoundrels—worthless.

When we do not value God sufficiently, we over value ourselves, but in reality our own value goes down, not up! We become worthless. Whereas those who value God above themselves are exalted... or they increase in value.

If one does not know God, one cannot value God or honor God appropriately. The first step in honoring God appropriately is to know Him rightly.

C. The disdain of Eli's sons is exposed in how they treated the Lord's offerings.

i. Leviticus 3:16

ii. This sin was very great in the Lord's sight.

a) It is the essence of falsehood.

b) Psalm 13:3-11

³ [The wicked man]...**reviles** the LORD. ⁴ ...does **not seek him**; in all his thoughts there is **no room for God**. ⁵ ...your laws are **rejected by him**...¹¹ **He says to himself, "God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees."**

II. How Much did God weigh to Samuel, Hannah, and Eli? (18-26)

Samuel and his mother Hannah honored God whereas Eli's sons honored only themselves and Eli honored his sons more than God.

A. Samuel and his mother Hannah honored God.

i. 1 Samuel 1:27-28

ii. Samuel ministered before or served the Lord.

B. Eli's sons honored only themselves and Eli honored his sons more than God.

i. Eli blesses Elkanah and Hannah.

ii. The wickedness of Eli's sons appears in other areas.

iii. The sins of Eli's sons are rooted in Eli himself as much as the dedication of Samuel is rooted in His mother. (1 Samuel 2:29)

III. How Much will You Weigh to God? (27-36)

A. "Far be it from me!"

i. *Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.*

ii. God's worth never changes, but our lives are like planets: we each have a different gravitational pull on God.

B. There were consequences for Eli and his sons. (31-36)

i. Eli's descendants would be hit right where Eli's sons had stolen from God.

ii. The day this sign was fulfilled. (4:12-18)

Conclusion

A. As we start the year, we all need to take an assessment of how much God weighs in our lives.