

1 Samuel 2:22-23

22 Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all Israel, and how they lay with the women who were serving at the entrance to the tent of meeting. 23 And he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people."

1 Samuel 8:1-5

1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.

4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations."

1 Kings 1:5-6

5 Now Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him. 6 His father had never at any time displeased him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.

Luke 15:20, 28

20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him

Community Group Study 20 June 2010

R REDEMPTION
HILL CHURCH

Introduction

Fathers are vital to the lives of their children. In fact, all fathers must be measured by the faith of their children. Their purpose in life as fathers: to teach and lead their children to be God-fearing, God-knowing righteous believers.

Just like Jesus is our prophet, priest and king, so fathers are to be to their family. Fathers are not just providers and protectors, but most importantly, they are a divine revelation of the nature of the heavenly Father to their families.

So many fathers have excelled in leading companies, planning strategies, doing brilliant work outside of home and yet have neglected to be as effective in leadership and management in the home.

Success in public endeavours must never be at the expense of our private home life. Eli, David and Samuel were great leaders, even spiritual leaders, and yet because of the failure of their fatherhood, even the public ministry that they had did not leave a legacy that lasted beyond their own lives.

We must be fathers like God who run to our lost children; we must be children who always look and reflect our heavenly Father.

Discussion

- >>Can a father fail at home and still be considered a successful man?
- >>Why is a Christian father measured by the faithfulness of his children?
- >>To what extent are fathers to blame for the faithfulness of their children?
- >>How does your experience of your own father colour your view of God as father?

Explanation

- >>Name some of the aspects of God's fatherhood.
- >>How should we treat our fathers?
- >>How do the principles of fatherhood apply to spiritual children?

Application

- >>Consider what aspects of our life and work in our modern culture parallel the ancient child-sacrifice to false gods.
- >>How can a father's work at home equal and surpass his "professional" life?
- >>How can we learn to honour our own fathers and mothers?