



## Thought for the Week

In 1 Samuel 3 we read how God told a young boy named Samuel to bring some terrible news to Eli, who was the High Priest of Israel and his mentor. Samuel had to tell Eli that God was about to destroy his family because he had been a poor father and let his sons blaspheme God and do many wicked things. As Eli received this terrible news of divine judgment he uttered these faith filled words, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him." (3:18). Having received the most agonizing news, he didn't lash out at Samuel but rather responded in faith and in confidence and submission to God. In essence, he responded in a way that ought to inspire us whenever are faced with tough news.

Here are few reflections upon the lessons we can learn.

Eli is mainly concerned for God's glory. He knew his sons were wicked sinners who mocked the name of the Lord. Eli's affirmation of God's judgment displays his concern for the glory of the name of the Lord over the preservation of his own name.

Eli recognizes God's sovereign goodness. Eli trusted that whatever God did was good, though he may not be able to see the goodness in it. If something does not seem good to us, we often demand an explanation and as such reveal that we do not have confidence in the sovereign goodness of God. If God is good, his will must also be good, even when we struggle to see it.

Eli submitted to the wisdom and authority of the Lord. God has omniscient-Creator knowledge, while we have sinful-creature knowledge. All too often, we prefer to trust in our own wisdom and knowledge. In blind foolishness, we do not fear the Lord and don't trust in his wisdom.

Eli did not raise his fist to the heavens, but rather bowed his knee to God. He was willing to give God praise even when his heart was broken. It's easy to praise His name in the good times, but by God's grace we should also praise his name in the dark times too.

Despite Eli's many shortcomings as a parent, he was a great example to Samuel and to us. There is much we can learn from his words, actions and attitude at the revelation of God's divine will. Though his heart must have been shattered and grieved, Eli loved God and trusted him. Though our hearts may be shattered and grieved, we too must love and trust Him. Whether God brings good times or tough news into our life, may we always be striving to say, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."

God bless, Pastor John.

## Prayer Points

- "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1)
- Pray for wisdom for Jean-Claude and Joyce as they seek to share the good news of Jesus with Yawo friends in Malawi. Pray for God to be at work through the Sewing Training project as Joyce builds relationships and teaches.
- Pray for our Sunday School, Kid's Ignite and Youth teachers/leaders and Playgroup volunteers. That they are encouraged as God works in and through them in the lives of children and families in our church and community.

## What's on?

MONDAY

5PM Walking Soccer

TUESDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

WEDNESDAY

9AM Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

9AM Quilters

FRIDAY

9:30AM Playgroup

4PM Kids Ignite &



If you would like to know more about our Home Groups, contact Pastor John 0408 402 476

BIRTHDAYS: 10th Elijah, 14th Samuel

### A PLETHORA OF PREACHERS

During the absence of our pastors (travelling to Israel) we will be blessed by a wonderful variety of preachers.

22nd Oct: John Mansfield -Baptist World Aid

29th Oct: Dr Ron Neller -Creation Ministries International

5th Nov: John Curtis

12th Nov: Greg Blunden

### LADIES CREATE & REFLECT MORNING

It's on next Saturday 14th October (9am-12pm) and the project this time is 'Diamond Art'. Cost is \$10 per person (bring on the day) which includes all materials and morning tea. Diamond Art requires no artistic ability whatsoever and the finished product is beautiful. If you would like to know more, please speak with Shauna, Carin or Jess. This is a great opportunity to invite someone along who perhaps doesn't normally attend church. Please RSVP by Wednesday 11th October for catering purposes.

### SOS OUTING TO MAJESTIC THEATRE AT POMONA

This is happening on Thursday 19th October. Please let Anneli know that you are coming by putting your name on the list in the foyer. Payment is due by next Sunday.

### SUPPORT FOR ALEX

A huge thanks to all the ladies who have provided meals and biscuits to help Alex, Glen and their family get through this tough period of chemo treatment. It has been very much appreciated.