

## **Nurture and Child Training – Eli’s Sons**

*Nurture* – were you nurtured as a child? In a certain sense we all were. It certainly means *foster*. (The foster parent provides the nutriment the real parent couldn't.) *Nurture* means to feed or nourish, train, discipline, rear, bring up, educate. Did Eli nurture his children? No. As children our physical needs were met in a sense. Most of us were bottle-fed. You can't call a bottle-fed baby *nurtured*.

Nurturing is the process of rearing children or promoting the growth and development of children. To nurture means to supply with nourishment, to further the development of. Nurturing has not taken place if the desired result is not realized. If you nurture a child in the way he should go, then he won't depart from it. The phrase *he won't depart from it* is understandable if the parent does the first part. (Is your household being nurtured? Are the new people being nurtured? By whom? Are there set-apart teachers?)

Education is to develop spiritually, mentally, physically, and emotionally. This is what it means to nurture. This is what you have on your hands with children. You have to persuade them while they are persuadable and bond with them while they are bondable. Education also means to *condition* – to condition them to feel, to believe, to act in a desired way, to accept something as desirable. You make the child want what you want. You make them act in a desired way. Don't let them do the opposite.

Dt 6:6-7 – These words shall be impressed on your heart. We must talk about them in a way that will impress them on our children. (Have we nurtured our children? Have we been nurtured?) Dt 6:7 – *Impress* – a pressure has to be applied; this doesn't just naturally happen. We must overcompensate for their natural bending. A teacher has to make an impression on his students.

To *impress* is to use pressure so as to leave a mark. It is to mark. It is to mark by using pressure. How will the New Covenant be implemented without someone stronger than you teaching you? A teacher is stronger than his student until the student is as strong.

What is the mark by which we are known? We are known by the mark of love. To impress is to produce a vivid impression, to affect forcibly or deeply the minds and emotions of our children. You listen and learn from a teacher that impresses you or your child.

**Sharon Harris:** A teacher who extends herself to a child, who loves him, will impress the child.

The seal of Revelations 7 is God's mark upon them, like circumcision. 1 Cor 10:11 and Rom 15:4 tell us the things written down in the Old Covenant are for us who are in the New Covenant. There are things we would never know if they weren't in the Old Covenant. We will take these things and impress them on people if we love them. The law of God is impressed upon our hearts and minds in order for us to impress it upon our children, and for us to walk in it as well (Dt 6:4-7).

In order for us to love our God and our children to love our God with all of their hearts this must be impressed upon them. The word must be applied upon their hearts and minds with as much pressure as needed. Paul said he is a minister of the New Covenant (2 Cor 3). What is the New Covenant for? The significance of the New Covenant, which we only have a foretaste of right now, is to accomplish what we are called to do. In order to be a minister of the New Covenant we must care for one another. We must shout from the rooftops what we hear whispered in our ears.

The New Covenant, more than anything else, is that we have received the Spirit. We don't learn alone; it takes others to do it. Humans need more care than any other creature. Human beings need tender, loving care all their life from other human beings. Only a human being can feel the pangs of loneliness.

The word has to reach the edge of the robe. It must go into the people, be imprinted on their hearts and minds. This is where the New Covenant is, where the word is imprinted upon people's hearts and minds. The word of God has to saturate the people. It is not automatic. We have to nurture new believers, not wait on others. We have to love new believers. We must do our part.

To make an imprint we must produce a mark by pressure or stamping, as how stone tablets are written on. It is the same type of pressure to impress these things – rebuking, correcting, instructing. You can only be pruned by the word of God. God's spirit can prune you back even in a teaching so you can produce greater fruit. Great pressure is used. Without teachers the New Covenant is void of its power.

Teachers must be set aside in the days to come and if they engage in other things they make themselves common. Now fathers and mothers are set apart.

If the parent or teacher does not produce a vivid impression in the child's formative years, Pr 22:6 may not materialize as a promise. Leaders, teachers must lead with the faith they receive. Rom 12:8 – Leaders must lead with diligence, constantly attending to the needs of the holy ones. That is nurturing.

Dt 10:12-13; 11:11-12 – This is the land He promised Israel. It is according to how we hear and do what we hear today that the land will come about.

Dt 6:4-7 – Who is this talking to, the old or new generation? It was the people getting ready to enter into the land telling them what to do in order to get the land. (We know that Israel didn't take the land.) The new generation of Israel was gathered on the plains of Moab where the preparations necessary to enter the Promised Land were being impressed upon them. Dt 11:12 – The eyes of the Lord are on the land. He cares for the land. His prime desire is for the land to go back to Israel. He wants Ex 19:5-6 to come about. In Ex 24 they swore they would do it. When they didn't, Israel was cut off. Our Father had to choose one tribe when no one else responded to the call (Ex 32). Our God took a self-cursing oath to Abraham to give him the land. The reapportionment of the land to Israel is our prime concern.

### **Child Training and the Story of Eli**

**What is recorded in 1 Samuel is for our instruction** in order that we won't fall in the same manner of disobedience as they did.

The first church fell – the second church shouldn't. The first man fell – the second man didn't. We have hope according to how we hear. Scripture paints Eli in a certain way so that it will make a lasting impression upon all of us. It paints him a certain way for our instruction. It's all in how you hear. It is according to how we love that we hear and respond. Scripture paints Eli as a weak person with flaws. His main flaw was his attitude toward his sons, his indulgence towards them.

1 Sam 2:29-30 – We are to make sure this doesn't happen to people who come in after us. It may have happened to us to a certain extent, but we are to limit it. 1 Sam 2:29-30 states a principle about honor. This is the word of God (verse 27), spoken by a man of God sent by God.

The word *honor* (Strong's 3513) comes from the root word *weighty* or *heavy*. Eli gave more weight or importance to his son's wishes than to God's wishes. We can do this all day long if we aren't being led by the Spirit. We can only be consistent if our mind is on the Spirit. The speed of a car set on cruise control stays on the mark. Our mind has to be set on the Spirit or we won't enter the land. We'll fall in the same way Eli fell in varying degrees, just enough to miss the mark.

1 Sam 2:22-25; 3:12-13 – He failed to nurture them properly; he didn't rebuke them. 1 Sam 3:14 goes back to 2:30. There was no atonement for Eli's sin (1 Sam 2:30).

Failure to put God first in child training has consequences. Obeying the word has blessing but disobeying has disastrous results. This was written down for our instruction. *Read the whole story for the context*. Eli was unwilling to exercise authority over his sons. He dishonored God, actually despised God. He held God in light esteem. God's word wasn't weighty to him; it didn't impress him. Eli treated God with disdain while honoring his son's wishes. Eli's sons were wicked men with no regard for God (1 Sam 2:12-34). The fat of rams was the most sacrifice to our God. The man's heart who sincerely offered it was so wonderful and he was forgiven. But to hearken is better than the fat of rams – *qashab*. There is no other way to honor Him than to hearken. If we were judging ourselves rightly we would weep at how we treat the word of God with light esteem.

There is hardly anyone in all of Israel who has ever been able to raise their children.

1 Sam 3:11-18; 4:11-18 – In 1 Sam 4:13 he was trembling with fear and guilt, not just fear. The things we've got to consider out of this concerning our own children in 1 Sam 2:12 was that his sons had no regard for the Lord. (If we even let our children pick and choose what they will eat, we have an errant spirit. They will grow up without a fear of the Lord.)

1 Sam 3:7 – When the word of the Lord came to Samuel he became a believer. Samuel was different from Eli's sons. Eli's house was cursed after him. Every time one of Eli's descendants died, people would remember what was said of him. They died because Eli didn't discipline his children. We must impress this upon our children. We must get the best of the word so we can impress it upon them. When one of Eli's desc

endents died it was because of the sin of Eli.

The children in Israel are to be circumcised, impressing the laws of Israel upon them or we'll be just like Eli. People die because they don't honor and obey God, especially in child training. Eli let his sons blaspheme (1 Sam 3:13, Masoretic text for *brought a curse*, as in Lev 24:14-16). We can do the same thing only more subtly or in ignorance.

1 Sam 3:14 – There's no atonement, you can't make up for it, there's nothing you can do. Eli was old, he'd already lived his life. He was fat, his weight broke his neck. It is according to how we build our house, either on the rock or on the sand. Obedience now results in endurance later. Disobedience now results in disaster later. We must build now. Later is too late. You can see it in Eli. He'd set his mind on the flesh and he ate too much. He ended up old and fat. Now is the only time to build for the future. *Now if you hear his voice, don't harden your heart.*

Eli's time ran out. He couldn't relive his life. He was not willing to sacrifice to build for the future. He honored his own flesh rather than God. It is according to how we live now, how we hear God, how we obey now. Exercise now produces endurance later. Whoever hears these words now and puts them into practice is wise (Mt 7:24).

Eli waited too late. His flaw lay in his attitude; he indulged his flesh. He tolerated in his sons what he tolerated in himself. His disobedience couldn't be patched up at the last moment. He had led a lifetime of disobedience. 1 Sam 2:29 impresses us. Eli fattened himself and neglected his spirit. *Those who honor me I will honor, he who dishonors me I will lightly esteem.*

Jn 14:21 – Before the time comes that the sin cannot be atoned for we have now to prevent it. The first church let it happen to them. The first thing we must do is to *impress* it upon people to repent *before* they get old and fat and they have pampered the flesh like Eli's sons. The word is wonderful, speaking right to the very thing we need to hear. The word is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword.

We knew the story of Eli but we need to bring it home so we can use the word of God effectively. We must help people see their responsibility with their children. They are able to respond to His word. If you were able to respond to His word at baptism then you are able to respond to it now. The word is written for our instruction.

Do the parents have the ability to respond to the word? We need to judge them properly if they are to lose their child. The parents do have the ability to respond – they responded to the gospel. If they can't respond you know they are not crying out with all their hearts. If a parent has the ability to respond and he doesn't respond to a child training teaching then he has deliberately sinned against the child. It would be better to have a millstone tied around your neck. We are responsible.

Dt 6:4-7 – His responsibility is in Dt 6:6, not outward performance. This is grace to our spirit. In Dt 6:7, the parent's responsibility concerns personal nurturing wherever you are at. The father is responsible, with the wife under his headship, to teach the truths of God's revelations. If you taught your child this it would impress them *indelibly*.

Dt 6:6-9 concerns formal and informal teaching. Verses 8 and 9 – God's word is to govern your habits and your conduct privately and publicly, your door posts and your gates. We are going to have to be more deliberate and diligent from now on to impress these things, especially with our children.

**Derush:** I'm glad that it is important to do this. Derushah – the one who bears that name has to show God's righteousness to the nations. If we receive the essential gospel then we'll be obedient to the rest of it. I realized the Holy Spirit doesn't have all of me. The only reason we can receive the Holy Spirit is that we would obey. I have hope. By His grace I'm not going to harden my heart. I'm thankful for the anointing.

**Aquila** (with great emotion): I'm liberated! We've got to take the rod of God and let it deal with our flesh. There's no way we can do it on our own, but we are going to be just like Him. I want people to see that this is the only way to be saved.

The context of Acts 2 is community. How else can you be saved apart from this life?

Oh, I just want people to be saved. We're going to love as we've been loved. We're learning how we've been loved. I'm so glad my life is in the church. We're not worthless, not any of us.

Yoneq read 2 Timothy 3 and I said to myself, *I've done them all*. I'm so thankful to God I'm still alive.

Let the word of God dwell in your richly. We've got to be cut. I don't want any smegma in my life. Luke 12, the slave's heart was, *my master will be a long time in coming*, so he beat his fellow slaves. I don't want an ounce of this trash in my life.

May His name be great beyond the borders of Israel. Oh, how much He loves us. I'm so thankful to be with you all here today. Eph 2:12 – Now we know the covenants. We're not in the world. He will lead us. We've been nurtured, we will receive the end result. I know our heart is, *We don't want to live if we can't live for our Master* (Mt 16:18).

We do things because we haven't heard the word exhorting us how to go on, how to live. We need to cry out. I know we are not going to preach the word until we know the terrors of death and that we could go there (Jer 34:18). To treat your brother badly is breaking the covenant and we will be cut in half.

We're not old and fat yet. I pray that the word that we've heard today would save us. I love Yahshua.

[For more responses to the Nurture teaching, see the end of *Parables, Allegories and Metaphors*.]

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*After a break, we discussed a few things:*

#### **Center**

***In every community we need a physical center. We already have a spiritual center. A place where people can gather and talk and have a cup of tea.***

#### **David's Harp**

***When are we going to start making our own instruments?*** We need to get David's Harp going and quit buying instruments.

#### **Cafés**

***We must make smaller restaurants in the future with simpler menus.***

#### **Gatherings**

***When should women be lifting up holy hands (1 Tim 2:8)? In Sus everyone grabs hands (lifted up) as we bless the Victory Cup.***

#### **Celebrations**

***The band should not be playing at the start of celebration. We hold hands and pray to welcome in the Sabbath.***

We stop work when the evening shadows fall (Nehemiah 9). Then we prepare ourselves and we're dressed and ready to go when the Yobel sounds. We want to get there at sundown. Yobel sounds before sundown. Everyone arrives at the same time, then we pray and bless the Sabbath. Then the band plays, we worship and sing together. After the first star the prophets speak. Then we go in to eat. This is lawful.

Elders lead in singing and dancing. Then the people will follow. If we teach our children to sing loud they will talk loud.

It is wonderful to arrive at the same time – sundown. Wait until sundown if you are unclean. Don't come early if you are unclean.

#### **Safety**

***We should use rubber mats when we're standing on concrete. The nations do this. We are to be better than the nations.***