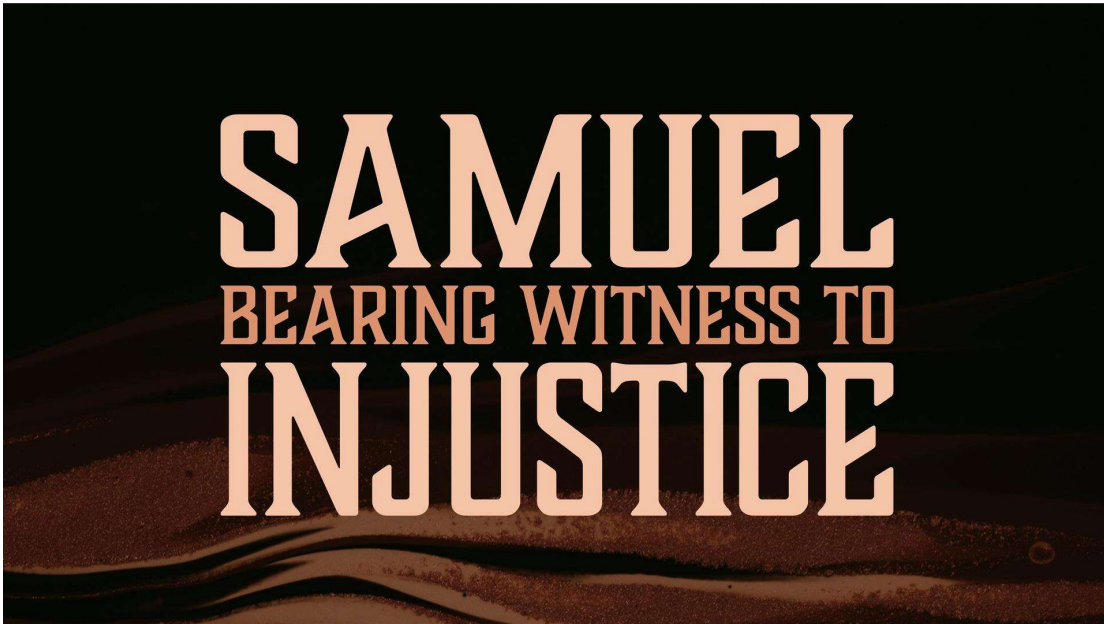


06082025

"Injustice in God's House"

1 Samuel 2:11-26

Eugene Kwon



Background

The Biblical authors are noteworthy for, among other things, their commitment to truth-telling even when it necessitates divulging dark details about their people and their leaders. The author of Samuel is no exception, as their narrative quickly reveals. Their willingness to record what really happened is at once stunning and encouraging: it reminds us that God cares about and invites us to share our stories of injustice, abuse, and trauma. Join us this Sunday as we return to our study of 1 Samuel with part one of "Samuel: Bearing Witness to Injustice"!

Sermon Text: 1 Samuel 2:11-26(NIV)

¹¹ Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under Eli the priest.

¹² Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord. ¹³ Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled ¹⁴ and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh. ¹⁵ But even before

the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the person who was sacrificing, "Give the priest some meat to roast; he won't accept boiled meat from you, but only raw."

¹⁶ If the person said to him, "Let the fat be burned first, and then take whatever you want," the servant would answer, "No, hand it over now; if you don't, I'll take it by force."

¹⁷ This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they^[a] were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.

¹⁸ But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹ Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. ²⁰ Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, saying, "May the Lord give you children by this woman to take the place of the one she prayed for and gave to^[b] the Lord." Then they would go home. ²¹ And the Lord was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord. ²² Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. ²³ So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours. ²⁴ No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the Lord's people is not good. ²⁵ If one person sins against another, God^[c] may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the Lord, who will intercede for them?" His sons, however, did not listen to their father's rebuke, for it was the Lord's will to put them to death.

²⁶ And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday Questions:

1.

1. PBCC is blessed by good pastors such as Becca. What should be included in our prayer as we search for new leaders in our church, according to Pastor Eugene's topic for today's sermon?
2. Eli's sons extorted worshipers in the House of God and ruthlessly assaulted women. Eli's sons were scoundrels/demon spawn. What was Eli's response and God's will in this situation?
3. "More than three thousand years later, the stench of injustice in God's house still hangs in the air...The Roys Report exposes some of the grave acts of injustice...Those of us whom God has entrusted leadership roles must face our own brokenness, insecurities, and fears, our own psychological, spiritual, and emotional vulnerabilities. We must face ourselves and do the hard work of healing by God's grace." According to Pastor Eugene, what is one of the most important ways we can express both our love for God and our love for neighbor?
4. Dr. Judith Herman explains in her text, *Trauma and Recovery*, "*Remembering and telling the truth about terrible events are prerequisites [...] for the healing of individual victims. [...] When the truth is finally recognized, survivors can begin their recovery.*" In what ways can you be a safe listener to facilitate the healing for the survivors of injustice?
5. In I Samuel 2:1-10, Hannah's prayer illustrated the permanence of God compared to everything else, referring to injustice perpetrated against God's people by their own leaders, that seem permanent and unchangeable. Hannah had experienced a series of reversals in her life, brought about by God's free and mighty hand. In her prayer, Hannah envisioned the powerful, fertile/productive, wealthy, and wicked being overtaken and replaced by the weak, infertile/unproductive, poor, and righteous. In summarizing Pastor Eugene's teaching about supporting those who have survived injustice, how are we imitating God when we incorporate the following tools: telling the truth, listening well, and safe spaces?