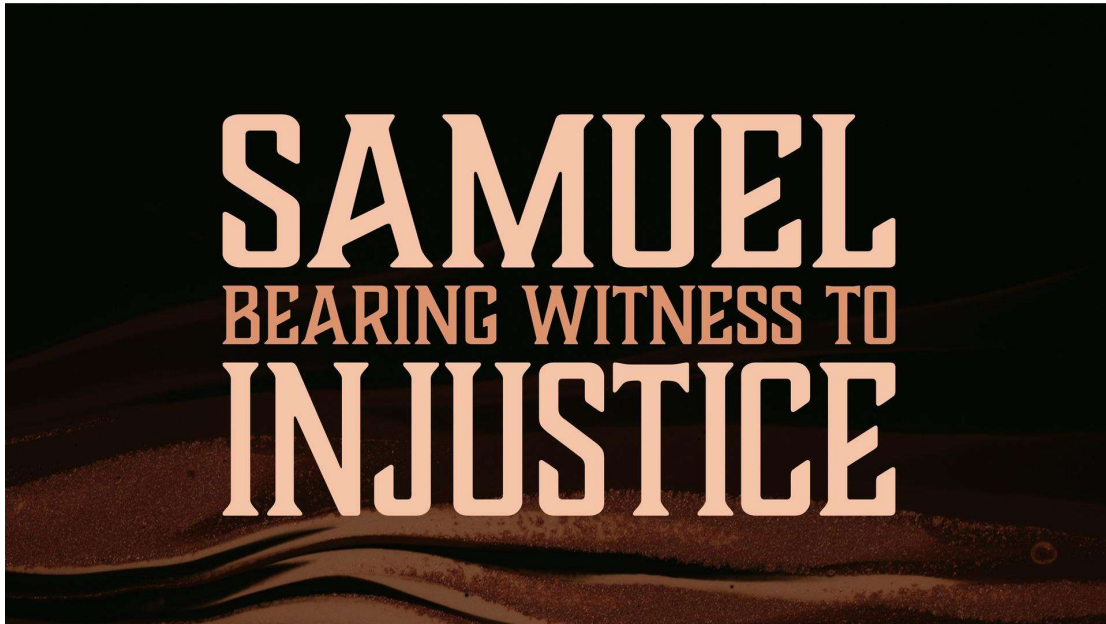


06152025

"God's Commitment to Justice"

1 Samuel 2:27-36

Eugene Kwon



Background

To heal from trauma, we need to share our stories with safe listeners. And our listeners must show they care. This God does in dramatic fashion in the next passage of our series in 1 Samuel: In a breathtaking display of His commitment to justice, God shows His anger at injustice. And it is in this anger that the hurting can find hope. Join us this Sunday as we bear witness to God's righteous anger against injustice in His house.

Sermon Text: 1 Samuel 2:27-36 (NIV)

²⁷ Now a man of God came to Eli and said to him, "This is what the Lord says: 'Did I not clearly reveal myself to your ancestor's family when they were in Egypt under Pharaoh?' ²⁸ I chose your ancestor out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, and to wear an ephod in my presence. I also gave your ancestor's family all the food offerings presented by the Israelites. ²⁹ Why do you^[a] scorn my sacrifice and offering that I prescribed for my dwelling? Why do you honor your sons more than me by fattening yourselves on the choice parts of every offering made by my people Israel?'

³⁰ “Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: ‘I promised that members of your family would minister before me forever.’ But now the Lord declares: ‘Far be it from me! Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. ³¹ The time is coming when I will cut short your strength and the strength of your priestly house, so that no one in it will reach old age, ³² and you will see distress in my dwelling. Although good will be done to Israel, no one in your family line will ever reach old age. ³³ Every one of you that I do not cut off from serving at my altar I will spare only to destroy your sight and sap your strength, and all your descendants will die in the prime of life.

³⁴ “‘And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you—they will both die on the same day. ³⁵ I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always. ³⁶ Then everyone left in your family line will come and bow down before him for a piece of silver and a loaf of bread and plead, ‘Appoint me to some priestly office so I can have food to eat.’”

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. The LORD is a God of mercy – but He is also a God of justice. Both are true of Him at the same time. From God’s word, God reveals Himself to be a person, not fallible and frail as we are, yet at least as multifaceted and resistant to oversimplification. Do you have difficulty to realize it or articulate it to others?
2. Relationships works when each party shows the other the honor they deserve. How can we give God the honor He deserves?
3. God want us to see Him angry as an empathetic witness or even a plaintiff. Does it comfort, affirm and heal you when someone expresses anger on our behalf? Do you have a story to share?
4. If we do release our anger to the God who can be angry for us, we will begin to experience a new freedom, a new openness, a new capacity in our hearts to

heal from our trauma. Have you expressed your own anger to God? Can you share your experience?

5. Pastor Eugene gave us the key take away: “God is a righteous judge, / a God who displays his wrath every day. Let God be your empathetic witness, brothers and sisters. Let God be angry alongside you, on your behalf. Lift up your anger to Him with hands cleansed of sin and self-deception, of your own injustice and abusiveness; pour out your pain to Him with humility and honesty; let Him carry what you can’t by yourself.” Does this help us realize the LORD is a God of mercy – but He is also a God of justice?