

# If Only I Had A Mulligan!

1 Samuel 2:12-17; 22-36

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Parenting in today's world can be a challenge. We often mess up and wish we could undo some of the things we have done and have a second chance to get it right. I know one priest in the Bible who probably wished he could have another try at his role as a parent. There are several strategies that he would probably use if given another chance.

## I. Relationship With the Lord

1. Sons of Eli: "they did not know the Lord"!
2. Eli may have been too busy.
3. He may have majored on rituals and religion rather than relationship
4. How does a parent major on this strategy?
  - Have your own personal relationship with God.
  - Teach first by own example.
  - Prioritize their involvement with Word of God and people of God
  - Point them to God, to know Him as...
5. Stick with it!

## II. Rebuke With Consequences

1. Sins of Eli's sons were atrocious
2. Eli rebukes them but without any consequences
3. God's indictment: You have honored your sons above Me!
4. Discipline was missing and it was fatal!

## III. Restraint and Self-Discipline Taught

1. Areas where this is vital:
  - Sharing with others
  - Eating habits
  - TV, video games and computer use.
  - Teens: sexual restraint and discipline
2. Teach connection between behavior and consequences.

## IV. Respect for Authority

1. The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment is bridge to learn authority
2. The cycle: We are under authority to God before we teach this to them