

# 1 Samuel 2:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

## Analysis

The abuse escalates further. Not content with boiled meat, the priests demanded raw flesh for roasting before the fat was burned to God. Levitical law required burning the fat first (Leviticus 3:3-5) as the LORD's portion - the 'food of God' (Leviticus 3:11). By seizing meat before this sacred offering, the priests literally took what belonged to God Himself. They prioritized their culinary preferences ('he will not have sodden flesh...but raw') over divine commands. Their appetites trumped obedience; their comfort superseded God's explicit instructions.

## Historical Context

The burning of fat was non-negotiable in Israelite sacrifice (Leviticus 3:16-17; 7:23-25). Fat represented the best portion and was reserved exclusively for God. Consuming fat was forbidden to Israelites under penalty of being 'cut off' from the people.

## Related Passages

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

1. In what ways might believers today take for themselves what rightfully belongs to God?
2. How do personal preferences sometimes override clear biblical commands in your life?

## Interlinear Text

גָּמָם	בְּתִרְמָם	וְיִקְרָרְ וְיִקְרָרְ	אֶת	בְּחִלְבָּם	וְעַד	בְּחִלְבָּם
H1571	H2962	Also before they burnt	H853	the fat	came	servant
		H6999		H2459	H935	H5288
לְכָה	וְיֹאמֶר	לֹא יְשַׁבֵּחַ	הַזָּבֵחַ	תִּתְנַחַת	רְבָשָׁךְ	לְצַל וְתַבְשֵׁר
for the priest	and said	to the man	that sacrificed	Give	flesh	to roast
H3548	H559	H376	H2076	H5414	H1320	H6740
לְכָה	וְלֹא	וְיִקְרָרְ	מִמְּבָשֵׁל	בְּשָׁר	מִבְּשָׁל	אָמֵן
for the priest	H3808	for he will not have	H4480	flesh	sodden	H3588 H518
H3548		H3947		H1320	H1310	
וְתַבְשֵׁר						
of thee but raw						
H2416						

## Additional Cross-References

**Leviticus 3:16** (Sacrifice): And the priest shall burn them upon the altar: it is the food of the offering made by fire for a sweet savour: all the fat is the LORD'S.

**Romans 16:18** (Parallel theme): For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

**Philippians 3:19** (Parallel theme): Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

