

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 20TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

CALLED (1 SAMUEL 3:1-9) SAMUEL AND PROPHECY

It's notable that Samuel was still young, maybe around 12, and that prophecy was rare in those days. Samuel doesn't look like a leader... yet.

- **It's not always the oldest or the most experienced that God uses. He will use people surrendered to His will, whatever their background.**

THE LAMP OF GOD

Eli is old and almost blind. Their lusts have blinded Israel. The lamp may be going out, but God is about to restore His light to His people.

- **We may look around and see darkness because the culture is blind, but God has a plan and continues to call on His people to bring light into this world.**

HEARING

Samuel and Eli were close together, and Samuel was used to hearing Eli call for him. He has no problem hearing the Lord but can't tell the difference between the Lord and Eli.

- **Every time Samuel would hear his name, he would respond in honor of his teacher. Samuel was willing to answer the call, but he had one problem...**

DID NOT YET KNOW THE LORD

Samuel didn't know the Lord. He had been raised in the temple, was taught, and obeyed the law every day. But he still didn't know God.

- **Samuel was listening, but it would take wise advice from his teacher to help him understand what was happening. God is still speaking to His people; can we hear? Do we understand?**

LISTENING (1 SAMUEL 3:10-14) SAMUEL, SAMUEL!

The Lord came and stood by Samuel, then called him by name. This time, Samuel stayed and responded to the Lord.

- **So many times, God calls our name, and we run to the wrong place before He finishes what He has to say. How often have we gone in the wrong direction because we didn't listen?**

SPEAK ...

Samuel invited the Lord to speak to him. He didn't know that his life was about to change forever. He had read about God, studied His word, and even served Him. Now, he was about to meet Him.

- **How often are we slowing down long enough to hear God call our name, then sit and listen to what He has to say?**

THE LORD SAID...

God reviewed what He had said to "a man of God" in chapter 2. Eli's sin is clarified this time, and every opportunity to repent is gone. Eli's time is almost over, and he will have to face the consequences of his choices.

- **As God spoke, Samuel listened. God was about to do something in Israel, and Samuel would have to tell Eli the truth.**

HONOR (1 SAMUEL 3:15-21) HUMBLE HEART

Samuel had heard God's voice and received God's message, but he still got up early and returned to his old tasks.

- **Would we be this humble? This mature? We should never be so proud of our relationship with Christ that we think some task is below us.**

HARD TRUTH

Samuel didn't want to tell Eli what was about to happen. Who would? Although he had seen Eli's sons and his weak leadership, he wasn't judgmental.

- **Whatever God speaks to us must be enveloped in tenderness and love. Even if the message is difficult, it's always to be delivered in humility and kindness.**

RESIGNATION

Eli hears God's judgment on his family again. The sin was still there. He still wouldn't stop his sons. Even now, he would not repent and cry out for forgiveness, and neither would his descendants.

- **Eli had served God but had failed to show his family why. What is the price for**

holding on to a few sins?

SAMUEL GREW

This is the second time we see that Samuel grew. Hannah had "given him to the Lord," and he had grown up "in the presence of the Lord." But now, we see "the Lord was with him."

- **Real growth begins when we become obedient and listen to God. What is keeping us from growing?**

CONFIRMED

Everyone from the North to the South knew that Samuel was a prophet of the Lord because his prophecies came true. All of Israel would know Samuel's words.

- **Because Samuel honored God, a nation would hear God again. Spiritual renewal comes when we hear, listen to, and honor God; the world will see it.**

HEARING

- God is always at work around us.
- **God speaks every day to His church and the world.**
- **It's not so much that people can't hear God; it's more that people don't recognize Him. Our culture makes God one of many voices. So, how do we help people recognize His voice?**

DISCERNMENT

- We must take time to listen to God's voice.
- **God's voice is the loudest in His Word. We begin to recognize God's voice when we read His Word.**
- **Beware when someone says that God is someone different than who He says He is. He won't "say" anything that conflicts with what He has said.**

HONORED

- Honoring God isn't just lip service or following rules.
- **Listening to Him leads to living for Him.**
- **God calls US by name. Will we stop long enough to hear His voice and respond in obedience? Will we live lives honoring Him? We won't until we start listening.**