



Metropolis

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SAMUEL IS CALLED BY GOD

Series: History of Israel – The Kingdom

Reference: First Samuel 2:1-3:21

Today's Theme Verse: ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. (*First Samuel 3:9*)

Theme: Listening to the Lord

LESSON:

We are setting aside some time to think about some of the heroes of the faith we read about in the Bible. As we look at these heroes we want to see that what makes them heroes is that they trusted in the Lord and they pointed us to Jesus; the greatest of all heroes. Today we are thinking about Samuel. Samuel is a hero because he listened and obeyed the Lord.

Before we meet Samuel in the Bible, we meet his parents before he was born. His mother, Hannah, was barren. She was unable to have children. But she went with her husband, Elkanah, to Shiloh to worship the Lord and to offer sacrifice, Hannah prayed to God. She was sorrowful because she had no children. She prayed asking God for a son and she promised that she would dedicate her son to God forever. Eli, the priest saw her praying. Her lips were moving but she was silent. He thought she was drunk. Eli told her to stop getting drunk. She told him that she was not drunk but that she was troubled in spirit and that she was praying to God for help. Eli encouraged her that God would grant her request. Hannah went home with Elkanah her husband. “And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the LORD” (*First Samuel 1:20*). When Samuel was old enough, Hannah kept her promise by dedicating Samuel to the Lord. She left him with Eli the priest. That is where we find Samuel in our lesson today.

Eli, the priest had two sons, Hophni and Phinehas. They were wicked. They were supposed to serve God in the tabernacle, but they were stealing from God and being mean to the people. They didn't listen to God. But young Samuel heard God speak. At first, he did not know it was God speaking, but when he learned that God was speaking to him, he was ready to listen. Our **Theme Verse** says, ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. (*First Samuel 3:9*). Listening is a very important skill that we have to learn to do. How many of you listen to your parents? Your teachers? How many of you listen to God? It is harder to listen to God because we don't hear His voice like Samuel did. But there are many ways that God talks to us. God speaks to us as we pray, he speaks through your parents, He even speaks to us in Children's Church. But the most important way God speaks to us is in His Word, the Bible. What we need to do is be good listeners so we can hear God's voice and obey.

Isn't it frustrating when people won't listen to you? Sometimes it is that way between God and us. He has lots of things He wants to tell us. He has lots of ideas about how we can run our life better, but do we bother to listen? Can He get our attention? How often are we too distracted doing other things? We don't tune in to what God has to say.

Of the four people serving in the tabernacle – Eli, Hophni, Phineas and Samuel - only one person was hearing what God had to say. Isn't that interesting? You'd think everybody working in a church would want to hear from God. But that wasn't the case. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phineas, certainly weren't listening to God. They had evil hearts. Their job in the temple was to help with the sacrifices. But they took the meat that people brought as a sacrifice, and they kept the best pieces to eat for dinner! That meat belonged to God; they stole it! Although they had been brought up to serve and honor God, their hearts were evil. They didn't listen to God.

What about their father, Eli, the priest? Was he listening to God? No, at least not in one area. God had told Eli the evil things his sons were doing. But Eli didn't want to hear it. He didn't want to punish Hophni and Phineas for stealing God's meat. He was a weak father, afraid to discipline his sons. Eli had stopped listening to God, too.

Then there was Samuel. He was just a young boy, but he was willing to listen to God. So God spoke to him, right out loud! He called, "Samuel; Samuel." That doesn't happen very often! It startled Samuel; he mistakenly thought Eli was calling him. Finally, he realized it was God beginning to speak to him. Because Samuel was willing to listen, and willing to obey God's instructions, he heard the very voice of God Almighty.

So can we. Oh, it is still unusual for God to speak out loud. But you can hear from Him every day, by opening up the Bible. It is God's Word, and through it, He'll speak to you.

When you read the Bible, or someone reads it to you, take time to listen to God. Don't just close the book, and run away and play, without thinking about what God has to say.

CRUCIAL INSIGHT: [The Bible] is the primary way that the Lord reveals Himself to us.

John 5:39 says, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me."

KEY QUESTION #1 - DO you MAKE the time to open His Word and give Him a chance to REVEAL Himself to you? He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

KEY QUESTION #2 - WHEN you MAKE the time to open His Word, do you say, SPEAK LORD, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING? DO you open up His Word and say, Lord I know that you are giving me instruction to LIVE by? (Richard Cimino)

God is trying to explain things to you, too, when you read the Bible. To help you hear better what He has to say, sit quietly and think awhile after reading. Then ask yourself three questions: 1) What does it say? 2) What does it mean? 3) How does it apply to me?

When you take time to listen to God, He will reward you. He will help you understand what He wants from you. You will grow wise with what He tells you. You will learn how to live better. And you will know the secret of a happy life – fellowship with God! Listen to God. He is waiting to talk to you.

But like Hophni and Phinehas, all of us have failed to listen to God and obey Him. Because we have not listened and because we have disobeyed God, we deserve to be punished. But God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus lived a sinless life and then died on the cross as a substitute sacrifice for sinners. God punished Jesus so that He could forgive sinners like you and me. If you will put your faith in Jesus and turn from your sin, God will forgive you and give you the free gift of eternal life.

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C i t y

5th / 4th

Name: _____

Date: _____

LISTEN TO THE LESSON! MAKE A MARK FOR EACH TIME YOU HEAR:

BIBLE	GOD	JESUS	LOVE
Christian	Faith	Heaven	Pray

Lesson Title: _____

Scripture: _____

MEMORY VERSE

QUESTIONS I HAVE?

PRAYER REQUESTS

POINTS OF THE MESSAGE

1:

2:

3:



My DOODLES
