

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 3:1-21 – God called Samuel in the night; he obeyed God’s words.

Today’s Message:

“A Prophet Called”.



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned how God prepares His servants even when the spiritual environment around them is going in the wrong direction. Our usefulness to God is not based on our environment. Today, we will see just how bad things had gotten when the lamp of God in the holy place went out. Yet in the midst of the darkness, God calls Samuel to hear and speak His words. God had not stopped working. His people had stopped listening! God allowed a generation to experience spiritual darkness while simultaneously preparing a servant to bring His light to the next generation. This is God’s message...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 3:1-21

A. The Darkness of the Day 3:1-3

1. Samuel was serving the LORD in a spiritually declining (a.k.a. **DEAD**) environment.

1Samuel 3:1 – And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli.

And the word of the LORD was precious in those days;
there was no open vision.

1Samuel 3:2 – ... Eli was laid down... eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see.

1Samuel 3:3 – And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD,
where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

“Samuel **ministered** unto the LORD” – Samuel is serving the Lord when others were not!

“The word of the LORD was **precious**” – it was scarce, rare; God had stopped speaking!

“The **lamp of God went out**” – this is the lamp that was to always be burning! **Rev 3:1-6!**

SCRIPTURE WITH SCRIPTURE

Exodus 27:20 – ... pure oil olive...to cause the lamp to burn CONTINUALLY.

Leviticus 24:2 – ... pure oil olive...to cause the lamps to burn CONTINUALLY.

KEY TRUTHS

- Before God gave Samuel a platform to speak, He gave him a place to **SERVE**.
- The problem was that Israel had failed to listen to what God had already **SAID**.
- We are in a *modern* spiritual famine. Bibles are plenteous – obedience is **RARE**!
- The **lamp** is a picture of the **Holy Spirit** – it gives light to **the shewbread (6+6)**.

The Bible: 66 books!

“And ere the lamp of God went out...”

The shewbread was to be baked fresh every morning. The only light on it was the candlestick.

God commanded to keep the light burning continually! How is your light burning today?

Jesus Christ said that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. **Luke 4:4**

Amos 8:11

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of **hearing the words of the LORD:**

KEY TRUTH

The **priesthood** that was supposed to maintain the worship of God was failing in its responsibilities, while **the light was literally going out in the very place where God’s presence was represented by the ark.**

B. The Personal Calling 3:4-18

2. Samuel had been dedicated to God; now God was calling him **PERSONALLY**.

Important Note

Samuel was faithful to respond in obedience. He was ready to obey God directly now. He simply did not yet recognize His voice!

Although Eli had failed greatly as a father and spiritual leader, he still knew how to direct Samuel toward God!

1Samuel 3:4 – That **the LORD called Samuel**; and he answered, Here am I.

1Samuel 3:6 – And **the LORD called** yet again, Samuel... said, Here am I...

1Samuel 3:7 – Now **Samuel did not yet know the LORD**, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

1Samuel 3:8 – And **the LORD called Samuel** again the third time... Here am I... And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

1Samuel 3:10 – And **the LORD came, and stood, and called** as at other times, Samuel, Samuel.

Then Samuel answered, **Speak; for thy servant heareth.**

“Samuel did not **yet know** the LORD” – he was dedicated and prepared; now God calls!

“Eli **perceived**... called the child” – Eli taught Samuel to listen to God... yet he was not!

“The LORD came, and **stood**... Samuel, Samuel” – WOW! What a thought! It’s personal!

KEY TRUTHS

- Eli taught Samuel to say – “**Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth.**”
- A servant is one who recognizes that someone has authority over him.
- God did not wait until he was 30... he was already serving, listening, **GROWING**!
- God’s first prophetic message to Samuel was a hard one!
 - ✓ God gave Samuel a difficult message of His judgment on Eli’s house.
 - ✓ God did not call Samuel to tell people what they wanted to hear.
 - ✓ God called Samuel to tell them what God said! ... to preach the **WORDS** of God!
 - ✓ **Examples: Nathan** “Thou art the man” **2 Sam 12:7**; **John the Baptist** in **Mk 6:18**
- There is always a temptation to soften *the word of God* – Samuel hid **NOTHING**!
- The faithful servant of God does not change the message! **2 Tim 4:2-4**

Application

Before you ask, “What does God want me to do?” ... you must settle the question, “Am I willing to do whatever God tells me to do?”

C. The Light for another Generation 3:19-21

3. Samuel was growing spiritually and becoming more useful and **FAITHFUL** to God.

1Samuel 3:19 – And **Samuel grew**, and **the LORD was with him**, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

1Samuel 3:20 – And **all Israel** from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

1Samuel 3:21 – And **the LORD appeared again** in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

“The LORD was with him” – the difference between human ability and divine usefulness!

Connection: God’s calling and Samuel’s **IMMEDIATE** obedience and spiritual growth!

“...and the LORD was with him... did let none of his words fall to the ground.”

Samuel was growing in the Lord, and God was with him! Amen.

The chapter began with no open vision... and now God is speaking again! Amen.

What kind of servants are you raising up for God? How is your service to the Lord?

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Application

Your spiritual growth:
Bible reading + study?
Prayer time?
Obedience to God?
Forsaking of sin?
More useful to God?
Church attendance?
Good testimony?
Serving in the church?
Giving to the Lord?
Faithful in Discipleship?
Faithful in Evangelism?
Faithful in Baptism?
Faithful in Membership?