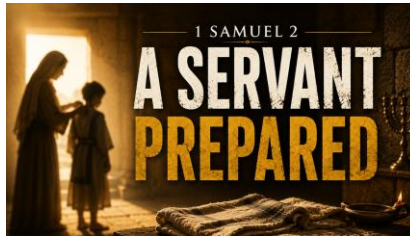


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 2:1-36 – God prepares Samuel in the midst of sin and corruption

Today's Message:

"A Servant Prepared"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we learned of Hannah's faithfulness to God to bring Samuel to Him after she had weaned him. How important it is for parents to dedicate their children to the Lord and prepare them for Him! Today, we will see a great contrast. We will learn how God prepares His servants to remain faithful even when the spiritual environment around them is going in the wrong direction. We live in a culture that is going in the wrong direction. Sometimes churches go the wrong direction. Sometimes Christian leaders fail. Sometimes people we respect disappoint us. Sometimes spiritual examples turn out not to be what we thought. The good news is that we can be different! This is God's message to you.

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 2:1-36

A. Prepared by KNOWING the God we serve 2:1-10

1. Hannah **REJOICED** in who God is! Amen.

Questions

Does your heart rejoice in the Lord? God has given you life, and breath, and all things to enjoy for your benefit.

Application

How does this relate to your life today? God is fully aware of every detail of your life. He can change your situation in a moment of time – for good or for bad.

1Samuel 2:1 – ... My heart rejoiceth in the LORD... because I rejoice in thy salvation.

1Samuel 2:2 – There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee...

1Samuel 2:3 – ... the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed.

1Samuel 2:4-8 – ... The LORD maketh poor... rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

1Samuel 2:10 – ... the LORD shall judge... and he shall give strength unto his king...

"My heart rejoiceth" – she is rejoicing in who God is not just that He answered her prayer

"There is none holy as the LORD" – the environment was corrupt; God was still holy!

"By him actions are weighted" – He is on the throne, sees all, weighs actions/motives!

"Mighty... broken... hungry ceased" – God is able to change ANY circumstance in life!

KEY TRUTHS

- Hannah's song demonstrates what she believes and what she taught Samuel.
 - ✓ God is **HOLY** and **SOVEREIGN**. *There is none like God who is LORD of all! Amen.*
 - ✓ God **SEES** and **KNOWS** all things. *Hannah knew God is a God of knowledge.*
 - ✓ God **JUDGES** all actions. *Hannah knew God weighs and judges all actions.*
 - ✓ God **CHANGES** situations. *Hannah knew God reverses human circumstances.*

"... My heart rejoiceth in the LORD..."

God is in control. And He is always raising up servants to do His work.

The first step in servant preparation is having a right understanding of who God is and what the Bible says about Him. We must grow up in Christ!

B. Prepared by GROWING in the midst of sin**2:11-26**

2. Samuel was growing while Eli's sons were going in the **WRONG** direction!

1 Samuel 1:3

... And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the LORD, were there.

1Samuel 2:12 – Now the sons of Eli were **sons of Belial**; they knew not the LORD.

1Samuel 2:18 – **But** Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child...

1Samuel 2:21 – ... **And** the child Samuel **grew** before the LORD.

1Samuel 2:26 – **And** the child Samuel **grew on...** in favour both with the LORD...men

"Sons of Belial" – lost religious priests! Mark that down: church history; local "churches".

"Grew before the LORD" – increasing, developing, advancing, spiritually stronger.

"Grew on... in favour" – not just getting older – getting more spiritually useful to God!

Application

What is your life like?
What influences your life and behavior?

Your environment can influence you, but it does not have to determine who you are and what you do for God's glory!

KEY TRUTHS

- What a **CONTRAST**! Same tabernacle... same priesthood... same environment!
- Samuel's spiritual growth was happening *before the LORD* – in God's **PRESENCE**.
- Samuel's environment did not determine his spiritual **DIRECTION**.
 - ✓ Religious corruption and sin were increasing, and he was growing!
 - ✓ Samuel did not get to **choose** the spiritual condition of Eli's house.
 - ✓ But he could **choose** whether he would serve God or not. Amen.
 - ✓ **Joseph** – **Genesis 39:9** – surrounded by paganism, temptation, immorality
 - ✓ **Daniel** – **Daniel 1:9** – his life was hijacked and immersed in Babylonian culture
- Samuel's spiritual growth was observable to others – encouraging God's people!
- **Discipleship question**: Can people see that *you* are **growing** spiritually?
 - ✓ Not just more Bible knowledge or increasing attendance, but ...
 - ✓ Are you becoming **more faithful** to the Lord?
 - ✓ Are you **more obedient and useful** to God?
 - ✓ Are you **more humble and Christlike** every day?

C. Prepared by SEEING the consequences of sin**2:27-36**

3. Samuel's preparation included watching God's **JUDGMENT** on unfaithful servants.

Leadership Tragedy

What leaders and parents tolerate eventually affects everyone they lead and the entire family.

1Samuel 2:27 – And their came **a man of God** unto Eli... Thus saith the LORD...

1Samuel 2:29 – ... and **honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat...**

1Samuel 2:30 – ... for them that **honour me** I will honour... they that **despise me...**

1Samuel 2:34 – ... thy two sons... **in one day they shall die** both of them.

1Samuel 2:35 – ... **I will raise me up a faithful priest...**shall do... mine heart...mind...

"Honourest thy sons **above me**" – he knew their actions; failed to deal with the problem.

KEY TRUTHS

- Eli's sons were corrupt: he knew, he confronted it, but he did not **restrain** them.
- God's people came to despise the offering of the LORD; God **JUDGED** his house.
- God let Samuel see what happens when men use His position for themselves!

Great Contrast

Samuel is being prepared in the very environment where he is witnessing the consequences of unfaithfulness.

"... I will raise me up a faithful priest ..."

Samuel will eventually become the man of God who ... speaks the word of God, follows God's direction, leads God's people, and intercedes for God's people! God is faithful to raise up men, women, boys and girls to do His work for His glory!