

Respond

1 Samuel 3

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

2 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out (before dawn), and **Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.** 4 Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." 5 And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

6 Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

8 A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 9 So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

- **Samuel was in the right place**

Vs. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out (before dawn), and **Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was.**

Exodus 27:21

21 "In the tent of meeting, outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law, Aaron and his sons are to keep the lamps burning before the

Lord from evening till morning. This is to be a lasting ordinance among the Israelites for the generations to come.”

Samuel was in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was...
Eli was in his usual place...

Perhaps the word of the Lord was rare in those days because people were putting themselves in the presence of the Ark...

If you want to hear God’s voice you have to want to hear God’s voice...

If you want to hear God’s voice you have to put yourself in the place to hear God’s voice...

It was in the stillness of the night...

It was when everyone else was gone....

Many times God waits to see who is left...

Lindell Cooley reminded us: “The Presence of the Lord always came the strongest in Revival after most people had left.”

Vs. 9,10

9 So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

• Samuel was doing the right things

Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

The word of the Lord: *dabar* - speech, speaking, utterance, business, occupation.

Psalm 103:7

He (The Lord) made known his ways to Moses,
his deeds to the people of Israel:

- The People knew about the things of God...
- Moses knew the ways of God...

God is to be experienced...

God is a Person not a Thing...

We Study things, We interact with a people...

There are people who have studied God and never meet Him...

The Pharisees had there Philosophies about God but they didn't know Him...

Have you ever noticed Jesus never made it easy for the Religious Philosophers to believe...

He just never stayed put long enough for them to build a box...

Jesus was always doing things they never expected...

In places then never expected...

With people they never expected...

Jesus never healed a blind person the same way twice

- One man Jesus spits and makes mud. *John 9*
- Blind man at Bethsaida, Jesus spit in his eyes and put his hands on him. *Mark 8*
- Blind man Bartimaeus, Jesus says go your faith has made you whole. *Mark 10*
- Moses didn't know God and God showed up in a Burning Bush
- Saul on the road to Damascus didn't know God and He saw a Great light and fell to the Ground.
- Samuel didn't know God and the Lord called his name in the Night.

Samual learned to Respond

Vs. 10

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

That's it; Speak, for your servant is listening...

You don't have to be the smartest person if you have a relationship with the one who is...

All you have to do is obey...

The Smartest things you can ever do is Obey the Lord...

Water doesn't come from rocks...

Yet God told Moses to strike the Rock...

If God tells you to strike a rock the smartest thing you can do is strike the rock...

Story: 106 N. Holly St.

Maybe your hear today and your asking the question:

What is it that I should be doing?

How can I know what it is God wants me to do?

How can I know that He is real?