

PEOPLE LIKE US

Week 5
Samuel

"The Difference Between Doing Spiritual Things and Being Spiritual"

Scripture

1 Samuel 3:1-21 | 2:12-17, 22-26

- When you were a kid, were you a heavy sleeper or a light sleeper?
 - What did it take to wake you up?
- What is one place you have spent so much time in that you almost stopped noticing what was important about it?

Diving IN

- Read *1 Samuel 3:1-3*. The passage says, "In those days the word of the Lord was rare," but also says, "the lamp of God had not yet gone out." What do those two details tell us about the spiritual condition of Israel?
 - Is there any hope in the darkness? If so, what? And how? If not, why?
- Read *1 Samuel 3:4-10*. Samuel is serving in the tabernacle, but verse 7 says he "did not yet know the Lord." What does that teach us about the difference between being *around* spiritual things and *personally knowing* God?
 - How can that same danger show up today?
- Eli eventually realizes the Lord is calling Samuel. What does Eli get right then?
 - Even though Eli had failed in serious ways, how does God still use him to help Samuel listen?
- Look at Samuel's response: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." What does this reveal about the posture God desires from His people?
- Read *1 Samuel 3:11-18*. God gives Samuel a difficult message. What does this show us about listening to God?
 - Why might we prefer God's comfort but resist His correction?
- Read *1 Samuel 3:19-21*. What changes by the end of the chapter?
 - How does God reveal Himself to Samuel?
 - What does this teach us about the role of God's Word in knowing God?

Living It OUT

- What is the difference in “spiritual things” and “being with the Spirit.” Do you see this tension in your own life?
 - Are you ever tempted to settle for the duty of spirituality activity instead a devotion to God?
- Samuel’s story begins in a spiritually dark time, but “the lamp of the LORD had not yet gone out.” Where do you need to be reminded that God is still working, even when things seem bleak?
 - How could your answer change the way you think about culture or church?
- Samuel had to learn to recognize the Lord’s voice. What helps you recognize God’s voice today?
 - Share a testimony of how Scripture, prayer, counsel, or Spirit helped.
- Eli told Samuel to be available: “Go and lie down, and if he calls you...” What does availability to God look like in a normal week for you?
 - What competes most with your ability to listen?
- The sermon mentioned that ignoring small promptings can create bigger problems. Can you think of a time when a small act of obedience mattered more than you expected?
 - What about a time when ignoring a small conviction led to trouble?
- How is God inviting you into practicing being present with the Spirit?
 - This could include Scripture, prayer, confession, silence, serving, reconciliation, or joining deeper community.
- What is one practical step you can take this week to say, “Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening”?
 - How can this group help you take that step?

Lifting it UP

- Thank God that His lamp has not gone out and that His purposes will prevail!
- Ask God to make us people who do more than just *spiritual* things, rather people who *truly* know Him and walk with Him.
- Pray for humility to hear God’s Word, the courage to obey it, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit’s leading this week.
- Pray for one area where you need to listen, respond, or trust God more deeply.