



The Book of SAMUEL

Eli: A Hero Despite His Flaws

1 Samuel 3:1-21

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- **3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.
- **2** At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. **3** The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was.
- **4** Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" **5** and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.
- **6** And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

- ⁸ And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. 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.
- ¹⁰ And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."
- ¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³ And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

1 Samuel 3:1-21

- ¹⁵ Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶ But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am." ¹⁷ And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.
- And he [Eli] said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."
- ¹⁹ And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

Review of Previous Sermons:

#	Passage	Main Content and Applications
1	1 Samuel 1:1-20	Hannah “gets deep” with God through sincere, intense prayer; Frustration often leads to spiritual growth
2	1 Samuel 1:21-28	Hannah keeps promise to dedicate Samuel for service in the temple; Church and family obligation to create a culture of spirituality
3	1 Samuel 2:12-26	God’s “blessings” for Hannah’s family’s continued faithfulness to the Lord and God’s “curses” for the sons of Eli’s unfaithfulness; Believers who faithfully follow the Lord are blessed in many ways
4	1 Samuel 3:1-21	

Outer Frame of Today's Passage: A Turning Point in God's Prophetic Word

- **3** Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. (1 Samuel 3:1)
- **21** And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord. (1 Samuel 3:21)

The Word of the Day: “Theophany”

- Theophany: “An appearance of a God to a human; a divine manifestation”
 - Theo: “God”
 - Phainein, Phan: “To show”
 - Theophany: a revealing or showing of God
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- Examples: Jesus’ Baptism, Paul on the road to Damascus, Moses and the burning bush,

Introduction:

Integrity of a Demoted Grocery Manager



I. God's Promotion of Samuel

A. An Unexpected Visit (Chapter 3:4-8a)

- ⁴ Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.
- ⁶ And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.
- ⁸ And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."

I. God's Promotion of Samuel

B. An Unwanted Message (Chapter 3:11-14)

- ¹¹ Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.
- ¹² On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.
- ¹³ And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.
- ¹⁴ Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."

I. God's Promotion of Samuel

C. An Undesirable Call-to-Action (Chapter 3:15, 18a)

- **15** Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
- **18** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.
- Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)

II. God's Demotion of Eli

A. Failed to Remove His Corrupt Sons (Chapter 2:12-36)

- ²² Now Eli was very old, and he kept hearing all that his sons were doing to all . . . Israel ²³ And he said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. ²⁴ No, my sons; it is no good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad.
- ²⁵ If someone sins against a man, God will mediate for him, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can intercede for him?”
- But they would not listen to the voice of their father (1 Samuel 2:22-25)

II. God's Demotion of Eli

A. Failed to Remove His Corrupt Sons (Ch. 2:12-36)

- ²⁷ And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh? ²⁸ Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel.
- ²⁹ Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?’ (1 Samuel 2:27-29) . . .
- ³⁴ And this that shall come upon your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, shall be the sign to you: both of them shall die on the same day. ³⁵ And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind (1 Samuel 2:34-35).

II. God's Demotion of Eli

B. Is a Patient and Caring Mentor (Chapter 3:8b-9)

- Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy.
- 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.

II. God's Demotion of Eli

C. Receives Bad News with Integrity (Chapter 3:15-18)

- **15** Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.
- **16** But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am."
- **17** And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."
- **18** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the Lord. Let him do what seems good to him."

Takeaways:

1. Spiritual Maturity Requires Being Receptive to God's Presence and Plans

- Zecharia, Elizabeth, and Mary and their songs of praise
- Ezekiel was "in the Spirit" when he saw a vision in Babylon

Takeaways:

2. Spiritual Maturity Often Requires Doing What You Don't Want to Do

- Daniel: following dietary laws as a teenager, and continuing to pray daily as an adult despite the king's decree, leading him to the lion's den
- Moses: a reluctant deliverer of the nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt
- Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* against Southern racism in 1930s
- An adult does a task simply because it needs to be done

Takeaways:

3. Spiritual Maturity is Often Revealed During Setbacks

- Iron sharpens iron,
and one man sharpens another. (Proverbs 27:17)
- Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel” . . .
¹³ David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” (2 Samuel 12:7, 13; Uriah the Hittite and Bathsheba)
- ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!”
And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” (Genesis 22:11-12)

Takeaways:

4. Spiritual Maturity is Rewarded

- When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, ² “I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, ³ and keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, ⁴ that the LORD may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’ (1 Kings 2:1-4)
- ¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. (Romans 4:13)



Let Us Pray

