

1 & 2 Samuel (A Man After God's Own Heart)

God Pursues Samuel

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1 Samuel 2:12-3:21

12 Now the sons of Eli were worthless men. They did not know the Lord. 13 The custom of the priests with the people was that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant would come, while the meat was boiling, with a three-pronged fork in his hand, 14 and he would thrust it into the pan or kettle or cauldron or pot. All that the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is what they did at Shiloh to all the Israelites who came there. 15 Moreover, before the fat was burned, the priest's servant would come and say to the man who was sacrificing, "Give meat for the priest to roast, for he will not accept boiled meat from you but only raw." 16 And if the man said to him, "Let them burn the fat first, and then take as much as you wish," he would say, "No, you must give it now, and if not, I will take it by force." 17 Thus the sin of the young men was very great in the sight of the Lord, for the men treated the offering of the Lord with contempt.

- These sons were in line to succeed him as high priest and they already functioned in the priesthood. Even though their father, Eli, knew the Lord, that knowledge was not passed on.
- The Law of Moses (about 400 years prior) gave instructions for sacrifices to be brought to the tabernacle with a portion was given to God, a portion to the priest, and a portion was kept by the one who brought the offering. Cf. **Leviticus 3 & 7**
- God was to always get the best and first portion. But the sons took their portion before they burned the fat.

18 Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy clothed with a linen ephod. 19 And his mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. 20 Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord give you children by this woman for the petition she asked of the Lord." So then they would return to their home. 21 Indeed the Lord visited Hannah, and she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the Lord.

26 Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and also with man.

- Ultimately, corrupt ministers do not stop or hinder the work of God. God continually pursues His people through Samuel. Cf. **2 Timothy 2:13** *if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself.*

3:1 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. 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.

- God pursues a young boy to accomplish His purposes. Cf. **1 Timothy 4:12** *Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.*

Josephus said Samuel was 12 years old at this time.

- If God speaks, He will confirm, and often in a variety of ways. For Samuel, He confirms multiple times through calling him, but also through wise counsel of Eli.

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.”

- Tingling ears are a sign of severe judgement. Cf. 2 Kings 21:12; Jeremiah 19:3
- Now Samuel will be able to CONFIRM a word from the Lord to Eli. Cf. **1 Samuel 2:22-25, 27-36**
- **Hebrews 10:26-27**
26 For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

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.”

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.

- **Romans 8:31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*
- In this place in Israel’s history Samuel is Israel’s last judge and first prophet.

Discipleship Homework:

Our theme references David being a “man after his [God’s] own heart,” but there are several other people listed in 1 and 2 Samuel that God pursues, including Samuel.

- Reflect on the faithfulness of God in the lives of Samuel and Eli's family. How does this story demonstrate God's commitment to His promises despite human failings and shortcomings?
- Like Samuel, we all must be taught how to hear the voice of God in our lives. The greatest way God speaks is through studying the Bible. Here is a helpful resource from our discipleship pathways page: [Basic Bible Study Practices](#)
- There is a vast difference in the way Eli raised his sons versus Samuel. One listened to the voice of God and was obedient, while the others did not. Reflect on your life. Are you listening to the voice of God and then following through in obedience?
- Have questions about the message or need help with the homework? Please email Pastor Jarrod at jarrod@1116.church.