

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from the Life of Samuel

Good morning church...thank you for the prayers this week as we moved Hannah to Clarksville. We had a busy week, but the Lord provided the protection and strength we needed to get things accomplished.

How exciting to be begin our service today with baptisms. Let's give the Lord the praise, for He is the author and giver of salvation!

We are in week 13 of our sermon series entitled...

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

I'm going to do things a little different this morning. Rather than looking at a whole book, I want to concentrate **on one character from our reading**. I want you to turn to **1 Samuel** and let's see what we can learn from the life of Samuel.

First, here is a little background.

Samuel's life started as an answer to prayer. His mother Hannah was barren for years but fervently prayed that God would give her a son. At just the right time the LORD answered her prayers by giving her Samuel.

After he was weaned from his mother, she dedicated him to the LORD's service and left him at the tabernacle with Eli the priest. What you need to know is that Samuel was neither a Levite nor a priest, so most likely, his service in the tabernacle would not have involved sacrifices but he would have served as a helper to Eli.

As Samuel grew, he gained favor with the Lord and with men. This would be extremely helpful since his ministry took place at a crucial time in Israel. As matter of fact his ministry served as **the transition between...**

- Judges and the prophets (last judge & first prophet)
- Theocracy to Monarchy (he was a kingmaker)

Except for Moses, **Samuel is considered one of the most important leaders** in all of Israel's history. Today I want to draw **three lessons** from his life that we can apply to our walk with the Lord.

1. God is Speaking are You Listening

1 Samuel 3:1–11 (NKJV) — 1 Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. 2 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. 6 Then the Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" So, Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." 7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.) 8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So, he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So, Samuel went and lay down in his place. 10 Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." 11 Then the Lord said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

1 Samuel 3:19–21 (NKJV) — 19 So 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 had been established as a prophet of the Lord. 21 Then the Lord appeared again in Shiloh. For the Lord revealed Himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.

In a time when the word of God was rare, God spoke to Samuel as a young boy. The word was perhaps rare because the messengers were corrupt. But God is faithful in revealing Himself and He choose Samuel to be a mouthpiece for His Word to be heard in Israel.

At the end of the chapter, we are told that God upheld Samuel's words and none of them failed, why? Because Samuel was relating God's Word to the people.

While we don't have prophets like Samuel today, God is still speaking! He is speaking through His written Word...the Bible! Someone has said that if you want to hear God speak audibly, then just read the Bible out loud.

God is not silent; we just aren't listening. While we don't worship the Bible, neither can we neglect it. God has persevered this book over the years so that even today we can have an accurate account of His Word.

And let me add that there is also a famine of the Word in a lot of pulpits today. Pastors are more concerned with pop-psychology than with thus says the Lord.

God is Speaking are You Listening...

2. God is Listening are You Praying

1 Samuel 12:23 (NKJV) — 23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

Samuel believed in prayer! He was in constant contact with the Lord. He understood the value of praying and he knew that God was listening.

The Psalmist wrote about him...

Psalms 99:6 (NKJV) — 6 Moses and Aaron were among His priests, And Samuel was among those who called upon His name; They called upon the Lord, and He answered them.

Beautiful words...HE ANSWERED THEM!

Maybe we see less answers to our prayers because we are praying less. You certainly cannot expect answers if you aren't praying.

The Lord Jesus reminds us...

Luke 18:1 (NKJV) — 1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

And Paul said...

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV) – 17 pray without ceasing,

God is Speaking are You Listening
God is Listening are You Praying

3. People are Watching How are You Living

1 Samuel 12:1–5 (NKJV) – 1 Now Samuel said to all Israel: “Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me and have made a king over you. 2 And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and gray headed, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day. 3 Here I am. Witness against me before the Lord and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received any bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore it to you.” 4 And they said, “You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man’s hand.” 5 Then he said to them, “The Lord is witness against you, and His anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.” And they answered, “He is witness.”

Samuel was willing to allow the people to examine his life because he knew he had nothing to hide. Was he perfect, certainly not! But he lived to be a good witness and useful vessel.

Our character counts! As Jesus Followers we know that God redeemed us despite our sinful nature, but as redeemed people we live as “new creatures in Christ.”

We are different than we used to be and we should live differently than we used to live.

1 Peter 1:14–15 (NKJV) – 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

And especially with those who are watching from the outside...

Colossians 4:5 (NKJV) – 5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

The Lord Jesus said it this way...

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) – 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

While we are here, I want to make one last important point. Look at...

1 Samuel 12:1–2 (NKJV) – 1 Now Samuel said to all Israel: “Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me and have made a king over you. 2 And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and gray headed, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day.

Samuel is not old, at the end of his of life and we see that he has been consistent throughout his life. I just want to say that it's **not how you start the race that counts but how you finish.**

There have been a lot of people who started off with a bang, it appeared that they were on fire for the Lord but soon they fizzled out, they are nowhere to be found. We have even seen some supposed believers denying their faith.

We need to finish strong! Let us with Paul be able to say...

2 Timothy 4:7 (NKJV) – 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

We learn from Samuel...

God is Speaking are You Listening
God is Listening are You Praying
People are Watching How are You Living