

WHEN ISRAEL HAD A TURNING POINT



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Newport, Tennessee
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Pray over as many copies as you take;
Distribute as many copies as you pray over!

"WHEN ISRAEL HAD A TURNING POINT!"

Very few questions in life are more important than, "What shall I do with my life?" In business, science, education, medical, agriculture, retail sales, engineering, politics, construction - all worthy vocations; but there is also the call to the ministry - or some form of Christian service.

This message involves God's Call to Ministry; but it could just as easily be God's Call to any one of those vocations and occupations listed above - and perhaps hundreds more.

And the key to understanding this message today is the same key that has been used from "day one" in the Garden of Eden.

The Scripture Lesson for today's Message tells us that Samuel had a very difficult time being born. The baby who became God's Man - God's ONLY Man - had

great difficulty getting here. Only after prayer and constant dedication on the part of his Godly parents (Elkanah and Anna) was he able to be conceived and therefore born; and part of the arrangement with The LORD was that the child was going to be given back to Him to serve his entire lifetime in God's Service.

The big problem with that was the Old Testament counterpart of a "church" to which the child was to be sent was not the one you would have chosen, if that had been you.

Ok; Anna, the mother conceived; and the parents named the child, "Samuel" ("The Mighty Name of God"); and, after keeping him in the home for the basic three years, she and Elkanah started to the Tabernacle to leave their son there for his life-long Levitical service.

I. WHEN GOD SPEAKS; WE MUST HEAR HIM.

It is possible to "listen" and not "hear". I don't know if God's Voice here was audible or not; but to Samuel, it certainly was! It was direct and personal - not general as is God's Guidance sometimes (through circumstances, thoughts, inclinations, abilities, or Bible verses).

There are many voices out there, each demanding that we hear them. Good voices, strong voices, noble voices calling us to an occupation, to financial dealings, to family arrangements, even to church. They call us to a large amount of self-doubt and a very small amount of self-assurance. They are loaded with so much peer pressure; and sometimes, they are loaded with so much volume, they can speak so loudly and actually drown out God's Voice.

So many voices. It really becomes so confusing!

God will speak even when the day is dark. Even in days of doom and gloom and threats of "boom":

(1 Sam 3:1) - Now the boy Samuel (he was twelve years old) was ministering to the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare ("precious") in those days, visions were infrequent ("there was no open vision").

No open vision means there was no publicly recognized prophet whom the people could consult and hear Divine Revelation.

(1 Sam 3:2) - It happened at that time as Eli was lying down in his place (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well,

(1 Sam 3:3) - and the lamp of God had not yet gone out (see Lev 24:2-3 below), and Samuel was lying down in the Temple ("The Temple area before the actual Temple Building was built") of the LORD where the ark of God was located,

(Lev 24:2) - Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten

olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.

(Lev 24:3) - Outside the veil of testimony in the Tent of Meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the LORD continually; it shall be a perpetual statute throughout your generations.

This call to Samuel was more than likely in the early morning. He was sleeping in a "cubbyhole" near the lampstands (which was probably his workstation). He was not sleeping really close to the Ark; which spot was reserved for the Priests and Levites.

(1 Sam 3:4) - that the LORD called Samuel; and he said, "Here I am."

(1 Sam 3:5) - Then he 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.

(1 Sam 3:6) - The LORD called yet again, "Samuel!" So, Samuel arose and went to

Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he answered, "I did not call, my son, lie down again."

(1 Sam 3:7) - Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.

(1 Sam 3:8) - So the LORD called Samuel again for the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli discerned that the LORD was calling the boy.

(1 Sam 3:9) - And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if He calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

(1 Sam 3:10) - Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."

(1 Sam 3:11) - The LORD said to Sam-

uel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

This "thing" was going to be a really "big thing" that probably meant the replacement of the High Priest.

II. WHEN GOD SPEAKS, WE MUST UNDERSTAND HIM.

When we think He only calls us to be a preacher, we severely limit God's ability. We need missionaries, teachers, encouragers, givers, deacons, and pastors. We need farmers, school teachers, merchants, homemakers, and skilled tradesmen in every trade everywhere.

God calls in basic alignment with our gifts, talents, and potentials. Though there are exceptions, God generally does not call medical doctors to be agricultural specialists; or skilled musicians to serve as cooks. God takes no delight in forcing

square pegs into round holes.

Basically, God's Call comes in light of our potential; maybe not at the time; but the potential is there; and skills can be acquired later. Samuel did not possess all the skills he would need as Israel's Prophet at the time he was called; but he had the potential to acquire all he would need.

SOME LIFETIME SITUATIONS ASSIST US IN UNDERSTANDING:

A Christian home. Samuel was from a Godly home; and knowing the Scriptures from childhood is certainly an asset in interpreting God's Voice.

A Fundamental Church. We are more likely to hear and understand God's Voice if we place ourselves in the right places where His Voice can be heard more readily. Unfortunately, most of us give God the attention that some children give when mom is talking over a blaring television and screaming headphones.

A Wise Pastor. Mostly to be found at or near a fundamental church.

A Trusted Teacher. Unsung heroes of the Christian faith.

A Godly Counselor. Eli was a trusted friend to whom Samuel could go; even with all his faults. Who is your "Eli"? Maybe a pastor, spouse, friend, teacher, neighbor, parent?

An Understanding Friend.

Our understanding will grow through the years. Samuel misunderstood at first - though Eli was calling him. Our understanding can take time to develop and mature.

III. WHEN GOD SPEAKS, WE MUST OBEY HIM.

Hearing correctly and understanding perfectly are of no value unless you obey. The task might not be easy - Samuel's

certainly was not. Sometimes, we draw back; thinking we are not capable; and we sell God short!

Obedience can be a stretching experience. God's Challenges are tough. His work is not always easy; but with His help, it can always be done.

Obedience should be immediate. Actually, it is easier to just do it; rather than find all the excuses not to! When we respond, God certifies that:

(1 Sam 3:19) - Samuel grew and The LORD was with him and let none of his words fail.

Samuel was God's Spokesman and that was clear to all! They might not obey; but no one ever doubted that it was God who was speaking through Samuel. Samuel had God's stamp of approval; he had God's Power to do what needed doing.

(1 Sam 3:20) - All Israel from Dan even

to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of The LORD.

(1 Sam 3:21) - And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh (where the Tabernacle was located), because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by His Word.

Samuel's obedient response brought new prophetic times to Israel. With the calling of this boy, the entire nation reached a "Turning Point"; the Dark Ages of this era of History enlightened.

Your obedience can be a turning point. It MIGHT affect the nation; but, there is no doubt, it WILL affect you, maybe your family, maybe your church, maybe your neighborhood, maybe your community! And, after all, isn't that what it's all about?

After all, somebody brought you The Word of The Truth of Jesus The Christ; because somebody brought It to them; and on and on it went - all the way back to the first generation and probably to the

Apostle Paul, who got it directly from God Himself!

And aren't we glad that first generation of Christians didn't ever give up and quit!!!!!!

A NOTE FROM TOM MOOTY

Dear friend, the idea for this ministry came from a dear lady who asked me for my sermon notes after Church one Sunday. She said she wanted to study them further. I don't remember the date or time or even the sermon; but it has been our joy to continue this ministry down through these several years.

We've never asked for one penny in return; and, it is our intention to keep it that way; but we do ask you to keep it going. Take this one, read it as many times as you

wish, study it, then share it. If you want to keep yours, we will replace it with as many copies as you need. Just let us know at the mailing address and phone number enclosed.

Several of you already receive multiple copies for use in your Sunday School Classes and Home Bible Studies. That is an excellent way to use these "little booklets with the big messages" (as they have been called).

Above all; please pray that The LORD will use this ministry in a mighty way!

By the way, I am eternally grateful to the multitudes of sermons and lessons I have used in formulating these messages. No claim is ever made as to total originality.

God bless you!

Tom Mooty; Newport, Tenn (2025)



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