

Higher Calling
Lead / Founding Pastor: Ryan Rice
Sunday, May 16, 2021

The Passage

1 Samuel 3:1-21, ESV

Notes

1. Never underestimate the need for one another
2. Never underestimate the power of sin
3. Never underestimate the power of prayer

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Talk It Over

Take a little time to review the questions and pick and choose which ones you want to cover in the discussion. Be sure to save time for prayer.

Ice Breaker - In school were you the kind of kid that needed extra explanation or did you just get it the first time?

Today we're going to see how God spoke to Samuel, and how he got it. It took a few times, but finally he did get it and acted on the instruction he received.

- Read and review any notes or points you may have from the message. Which ones stuck the most to you and why?
- Read and review the passage. 1 Samuel 3:1-21, ESV. What stood out of the passage and why?
- As you look at the life of Samuel he had something that Eli didn't. Hearing! He could hear God's voice while Eli couldn't. Why do think God chose to speak to Samuel? Take a minute to discuss what contributed to Samuel's success in being used by God?
- As you look at the life of Eli, what do you think went wrong with him? Consider his family dynamics and compare them to that of Samuel's. Note. Samuel had a praying mother, Eli's kids didn't. What else might you have gone wrong with Eli's faith and family?
- Notice how God used both Eli and Samuel to needed each other in this story. Why do you think they needed each other?
- Notice Samuel's situation, he's eager, living holy and humble. His curiosity and sense of adventure sets him apart from Old Eli. Yet Samuel had trouble knowing what to do with the calling that God had given him. What was going wrong? Read

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vs. 7. What's it say about Samuel? **Leader Tip. This doesn't mean Samuel didn't have a saving knowledge of God, rather it means he didn't have a knowledge as to his role as Prophet at this point in time.)*

- Eli lacked the ability to hear and see very well, but had perception. (Read vs. 8 Notice what it says that Eli "perceived." Eli had experience and perception. His wisdom from the years of ministry gave him insight into this situation. He knew what to do with the knowledge that God had spoken to Samuel and he instructed Samuel what to do with it. Read vs. 9.
- Read vs. 10-11. Consider God's goodness in the story. How many times did God have to speak to Samuel before he got it? What does this reveal to us about God revealing his will to us? Isn't it true that we often need God to do something over and over before we get it. What's that look like in your own life? How has God been extra gracious and patient with you? Read vs 10. Notice how he calls on Samuel two times by name. This should be observed as it's abundantly clear God is working with a young man who's been confused about his calling. Notice as well, it says the LORD "stood" this means God was present in power right there. How has God been there for you in times of confusion?
- In verses 12-14, God pronounced his judgment on Eli's household and leadership. God was doing something new. Look at verse 15. How can we relate to Samuel in this kind of moment? The Bible says he was "Afraid" Have you ever been afraid... to say something you needed to say? What did you do?
- Encourage the group. That God wants to use them, to pass on God's Words and God's work through ministry and missions. Close by asking what the biggest take away from this message someone has.
- Take time to pray as a group.