

**"Samuel's Calling" 1 Samuel 3**  
**Sunday, March 30, 2025**  
**Assistant Pastor Victor Lopez**

**Background:** 1 and 2 Samuel are one single book in the Hebrew text. Samuel was the last **judge** (1 Samuel 7:6), a **priest** (Levite – 1 Samuel 10:8), and a **prophet** (1 Samuel 3:20). Samuel is a bridge between the period of Judges and Kings. King David comes from the lineage of Judah; Jesus is the Lion of Judah **Revelation 5:5**

1 Samuel 1-2. Hannah and the birth of Samuel. **1 Samuel 2:12-36 "The Sin of Eli's Sons."** Eli and his sons are disqualified for their sins. **1 Samuel 2:35**

**Thought of the Passage:** "Here I am" - God Is Calling You. If You Respond In Humility And Obedience, God Will Use Your Life To Be A Blessing To His People And Ultimately For His Glory.

**Outline:**

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1. God Calls Samuel</b>           | <b>1 Samuel 3:1-10</b>  |
| <b>2. God Speaks To Samuel</b>       | <b>1 Samuel 3:11-15</b> |
| <b>3. Samuel Speaks Truth</b>        | <b>1 Samuel 3:16-18</b> |
| <b>4. God's Favor Is With Samuel</b> | <b>1 Samuel 3:19-21</b> |

**1. God Calls Samuel - 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

**1 Samuel 3:1a Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD before Eli.** Samuel is faithfully busy with the Lord's work.

**1 Samuel 2:11b But the boy ministered to the LORD before Eli the priest.**

**1 Samuel 2:18, 1 Samuel 2:21b And the boy Samuel grew before the LORD. 1 Samuel 2:26 Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men.**

**1 Samuel 1:1b And word from the LORD was rare in those days, visions were infrequent.** It was a time of grand corruption in the priesthood. God speaks when his people are humble, obedient, and repentant, and he also hears. **2 Chronicles 7:14**

**1 Samuel 3:2 (now his eyesight had begun to grow dim and he could not see well),**

**1 Samuel 2:33 "so that your eyes will fail from weeping and your soul grieve, and all the increase of your house will die in the prime of life."**

**1 Samuel 3:3 and the lamp of God had not yet gone out,**

**First Call: 1 Samuel 3:4 that the LORD called Samuel; and he said, "Here I am."** Samuel's attitude is, "Here I am."

**How do you respond when God calls?**

**Genesis 22:1 "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."**

**Genesis 46:2 "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am."**

**Exodus 3:4 "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."**

**Isaiah 6:8 "Here am I. Send me!"**

**Acts 9:10 "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."**

**Are you ready?**

**1 Samuel 3:5 Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me."** [What can I do? How can I help?]

**Second Call: 1 Samuel 3:6 The LORD called yet again, "Samuel!"**  
**..."Here I am, for you called me."** [What can I do? How can I help?]

**1 Samuel 3:7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.** He had devotion yet did not have a personal relationship with God.

**Third Call: 1 Samuel 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."** [Samuel is steadfast and consistent]

**1 Samuel 3:9 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'"**

**Luke 5:4-6, John 21:6-8**

When young, we fear **rejection**. As we age, we contend with **regret**.

**No matter the age, our disposition should be 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening.'**

**Fourth Call 1 Samuel 3:10 Then the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"** [God showed up and called him by name!] **And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."**

God's Word leaves an imprint. **Psalm 119, Hebrews 4:12**

## **2. God Speaks To Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:11-15**

**1 Samuel 3:11 "both ears will tingle."** The phrase indicates severe judgment. (NLT) "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel.

**Jeremiah 19:3, 2 Kings 21:12**

**1 Samuel 3:12 In that day I will carry out against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. (1 Samuel 4)**

**1 Samuel 3:13** For I have told him that I am about to judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knew, because his sons brought a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them.

**(NLT)** because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them.

**1 Samuel 2:29**

- 1:** Kick (Scoff at) Dishonor the sacrifices of God
- 2:** Honor your sons above Me

**(NLT)** for you and they have become fat from the best offerings of my people Israel!

**1 Samuel 4:18b** (for he[Eli] was old and heavy.)

**1 Samuel 3:14** The entire house of Eli suffers the consequences of sin.

**1 Samuel 3:15 ... But Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.**

### **3. Samuel Speaks Truth – 1 Samuel 3:16-18**

**1 Samuel 3:16**

**Proverbs 17:9** (Contrast between discretion and gossip)

**1 Samuel 3:17** He said, "What is the word that He spoke to you?"

**1 Samuel 3:18a** So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him.

Christians have the responsibility of speaking truth in love.

**Galatians 5:19-21**

**A Christian speaks the truth in love, tactfully, and with compassion.**

In the Gospels, Jesus looks at the crowds with deep compassion:

(Matthew 6:39) "...distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd."

(Mark 6:34b) "...and He began to teach them many things."

(Matthew 14:14) "... and healed their sick."

We take our cues from Jesus. **Matthew 5:13-16 (Salt And Light)**

Speaking Truth means not being afraid to proclaim that sin keeps us apart from God. **Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10**

**Eli's response: 1 Samuel 3:18b "It is the LORD; let Him do what seems good to Him." Galatians 6:7**

### **4. God's Favor Is With Samuel – 1 Samuel 3:19-21**

**1 Samuel 2:30b "...for those who honor Me I will honor,..."**

**1 Samuel 3:19 Thus Samuel grew and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fail. ["Fall to the ground."]  
[NLT] 1 Samuel 3:19 As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him, and everything Samuel said proved to be reliable.**

**Romans 8:31b "If God is for us, who can ever be against us?"**

**1 Samuel 3:20** There are about 144 miles from Dan to Beersheba.

**1 Samuel 3:21 (NLT) The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh and gave messages to Samuel there at the Tabernacle.**

**When you obey, God can use you.**

**Samuel's response to the call:**

**"Here I Am,"** Five times.

**"For you called me."** Three times.

**Speak, For your servant is listening."** 1 time.

**How will you respond to God's call this morning?**

**Will you say, Lord, take my life and use it for your glory?**

**Luke 7** reminds us that he who is forgiven much loves much.

**Romans 3:24**

**The Lord fulfills His promises to Eli in 1 Samuel 4**

### **Application:**

**1.** God Is Calling You. "Here I Am" Is The Correct Response Of A Servant Of God.

**2.** "Speak, Lord, For Your Servant Is Listening." – God Speaks Through His Word, What Is He Revealing To Me? What Is He Asking Of Me?

**3.** Speaking Truth In Love Is Most Loving.  
[Salt Creates Thirst, Preserves. Light Illuminates And Exposes.]  
How Can I Be Salt and Light To This Dying World?

**4.** Am I Distant From God? Do I Know Him? It's Time To Draw Near - I Need God's Presence, Blessing, And Power In My Life.