

# Samuel

“The Faithful”



*“And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.”*

I Samuel 3:10 KJV

Samuel is so important that there are two whole books about him in the Bible. You may remember that in Old Testament Biblical times, the men had several wives. Samuel’s mother, Hannah, had not been able to have any children and the other wives were cruel to her and made fun of her. Her husband, Elkanah loved her very much. One day she was so upset that she went to the Temple and prayed that she could have a child. She promised that if she could have a child she would dedicate him to serving God.

She conceived and had a son, Samuel. While he was very young, she followed through on her promise, and he was sent to live with Eli, the priest.

One evening, Samuel heard a voice calling him. Thinking it was Eli calling, he went to Eli and asked him what he wanted. Eli said, “I did not call you, go back to bed.” A second time he heard the voice of someone calling and again went to Eli. Again, Eli said, “I did not call you go back to bed.” The third time, he heard the voice and went to Eli. Now Eli realized that it was God calling to the young man, and he told him, “Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, God. I’m your servant, ready to listen.’”

When God called again, Samuel answered “I’m your servant, ready to listen.” The Lord revealed to him great things that he had planned for Samuel and Israel. The next morning, Eli wanted to know what God had told him, and Samuel told him that God had great plans, and that there would be much blood shed for those who did not follow God’s will, but Eli said that is all right with him. He knew that God was right, and that God knew best.

Much more happened in Samuel’s life. Samuel served many roles in Israel. He became a prophet, a judge, and a military leader. Samuel was chosen by God to succeed Eli, whose sons were corrupt in God’s eyes. He was widely recognized throughout the county as he did God’s will. Also, Hannah was blessed with other children and she was accepted by the other women. She had followed through on her promise, and God rewarded her.

But Samuel was not perfect. The Bible tells us about men and women with all their faults who were just like you and I are today. In James, we read that that they were people “with a nature like ours.” The Bible does not give us such heroes, men or women who have the Midas touch, successful in all they do, who never seem to fail. The Bible gives us men and women with all their flaws, men and women just like us, or as James says about God’s faithful servant, Elijah, and others they are just like us in human nature.

After becoming the leader of the Israelites he turned the people away from idolatry and led them to a victory over the Philistines. The victory over the Philistines was followed by a long period of peace for Israel.

Probably one of the best known persons in Samuel’s story is his anointing of a king named David. He was sent by God to the house of Jesse to find a new king. God led him to reject all the sons except the youngest, David. David would be the new King and he was of the House of David, of which Christ was born.

There is a beautiful hymn that we sing at our church that is compelling and dangerous if we think about what we are singing. I can imagine that the calling to Samuel was both compelling and scary. The hymn is called “Here I am, Lord.” The chorus says:

“Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if You lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your unconditional love to us. We thank You that You have called each of us to spend eternal life with You in a house You have already prepared for us. Thank

You that all we have to do is call on You and You will be there for us. Help us to show that love to others as we tell them about Your grace and love. Amen

1. Have you ever had anyone make remarks about you because you did not marry, or did not have children? People do it many times, not realizing the hurt they are causing.
2. Have you ever felt that God was calling to you? Have you ever felt that you had a duty to do because of a “dream”?
3. Why do you think that God chose Samuel? Does God choose people today?
4. Is there a danger in saying that you want to serve your Lord?

© Gail Kennedy Keffer