

A television broadcast delivered
SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 2019
BY
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1 Samuel 3:1-10

I will be speaking to you today from First Samuel Chapter Three, if you would like to turn with me there, and and read along with me. First Samuel Chapter Three. I have a message that I am personally very interested in, and I believe and hope that you will be, too. In first Samuel Three it says in Verse Four that the Lord called Samuel. The Lord called him, and it says in Verse Six the Lord called yet again, called him again, and it says in Verse Eight the Lord called Samuel again the third time. Called him, called him again, and called him the third time. The title of this message is "Has the Lord Called Me?"

That's what makes this personally interesting to me. I want to know, has the Lord called me, and I believe you want to know the same thing. I believe that you are interested in finding the answer to that question. I would like for us to see if we can find the answer to that question, but if you'll turn with me to First Samuel Chapter One, let's read through some of the verses in Chapter One, and in Chapter Two, and let's see some of the background of this story, the beginning of the story. It says in First Samuel One, Verse One, "Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim of Mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, and Ephraimite, and he had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah and the name of the other Peninnah.

And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had not children, and this man went up out of his city yearly to worship, and to sacrifice unto the Lord of hosts in Shiloh, and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there, and when the time was that Elkanah offered, he gave to Peninnah his wife, and to all her sons, and her daughters, portions. But unto Hannah, he gave a worthy portion. That means a double portion. He gave her twice what he gave everyone else, for he loved Hannah, but the Lord had shut up her womb. She couldn't have children, and her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb. As he did so, year by year when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her, therefore she wept, and did not eat. This other wife, Peninnah, provoked Hannah and was very cruel to her.

It brought great sorrow to Hannah, and she cried. She couldn't eat. Verse Eight then said, Elkanah, her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou, and why eatest thou not, and why is thy heart grieved? Am not I better to thee than 10 sons? So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh and after they hit drunk. Now Eli, the priest, set upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord, and she was in bitterness of soul. She was so sorry, and just so, so depressed, and tearful, and she prayed unto the Lord and wept sore, and she vowed a vow, and said, "Oh Lord

of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but we'll give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

He will be set apart for the use and service of the Lord." She said, "If you'll remember me," she acknowledged that life was of him. Life comes from you. This is in your hands, and if you will hear my prayer, and give me a son, I will give him right back to you. I lend him back to you. In Chapter One, Verse 19 it says, "They rose up in the morning early, and worshiped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah, and Elkanah knew Hannah, his wife, and the Lord remembered her." He answered her prayer. Wherefore it came to pass when the time was come about, after Hannah had conceived, that she bear a son and called his name Samuel. That name means asked of God. She called his name, Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord. I asked him, and he answered me, and he heard me."

Verse 24, and when she had weaned him, she took him up with her with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the House of the Lord in Shiloh, and the child was young, and they slew a bullock and brought the child to Eli, the priest, Eli. She said, "Oh, my Lord, is thy soul liveth. My Lord. I am the woman that stood by the here praying unto the Lord. For this child I prayed, and the Lord hath given me my petition, which I asked of him. Therefore, also I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he liveth, he shall be lent to the Lord," and he worshiped the Lord there. Hannah prayed to God that he would hear her prayer, and put life in her, and give her a son, and God did.

He answered her prayer. Now, she prays again in thanks. She gives God great thanks for all of his kindness in hearing her, having mercy and answering her prayer. In Chapter Two, Verse One, it says, Hannah prayed and said, "My heart rejoiceth in the Lord. My horn is exalted in the Lord. My mouth is enlarged over mine enemies because I rejoice in thy salvation." It's your hand, your work, your doing that has caused me to rejoice. She said, here is none holy as the Lord, for there is none beside thee. Neither is there any rock like our God. Talk no more exceeding proudly, let not arrogancy come out of your mouth. For the Lord is a god of knowledge and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, and they that stumbled are girded with strength. They that were full have hired out themselves for bread and they that were hungry ceased, so that the bear and hath born seven, and she that hath many children is waxed feeble. The Lord killeth."

What she's acknowledging is the Lord does all these things. It is by his will. It is by his might. It is by his purpose, and she said in Verse Six, "he Lord killeth and maketh alive. He bring it down to the grave and bringeth up. The Lord maketh poor and maketh rich. He bringeth low and lifteth up. He raiseth up the poor, out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dung hill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory, for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he hath set the world upon him. He will keep the feet of his saints, and the

wicked shall be silent in darkness, for by strength shall no man prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces out of heaven, shall he thunder upon them.

"The Lord shall judge the ends of the earth and he shall give strength under his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed, and Elkanah went to Rahma, to his house, and the child did minister unto the Lord before Eli." That is a message of sovereignty. Her prayer is a message. It's a message of truth concerning God's sovereignty over all things, and that's how it is in salvation. That's how it is concerning you and me in our salvation. God is sovereignly in control of all these things, and now we're going to see that in Chapter Three. This leads us to Chapter Three, Verse One. "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli. They left him there, and he ministered to the Lord." How does a person minister to the Lord? Samuel did it by ministering to Eli. Verse One says, "The child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli." Our Lord said, "In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, you've done it unto me."

I'm sure that Samuel was there for anything that Eli needed him to do. He was a right hand man to Eli. He helped out. He probably took out the trash. Somebody has to do that. He might've cleaned and washed all of the utensils, all of the bowls, all of the things that pertained to the sacrifice, everything that they used to administer the sacrifice that God had commanded them to give. The reason I mention that is so we can understand that he took part in these things. He was there with Eli, taking part in all of these things. Verse One says, "And the child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli and the word of the Lord was precious in those days." There was no open vision. It was not precious to the world. Not every person in the world considered the word of the Lord to be precious, but it was precious to God's people, and that's how it is today. That's how it is right now.

The world does not think twice about mutilating the word of God, changing it, misquoting it, ignoring it. The world doesn't think twice about that. It's so common to the world to just have any translation, any translation will do. It doesn't matter how accurate it is. Any translation will do. That's not how it is for God's people, though. God's people want to hear from the Lord. They want to hear the word of the Lord. To God's people, the word of the Lord is precious, not the word of the preacher, not the word of the denomination, not the word of the tradition, the word of the Lord. It's precious. It's valuable.

They know it's rare to just hear the word of the Lord. That's a rare thing. That's hard to find. Verse One says, "The child Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli, and the word of the Lord was precious in those days., There was no open vision and it came to pass at that time when Eli was laid down in his place, in his eyes, began to wax dim that he could not see, and ere the lamp of God went out in the temple, or before the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the Ark of the Covenant was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep, that the Lord called Samuel." God called Samuel.

He was laying there, he went to lay down. It's time to go to sleep. End of the day, and God called Samuel. Samuel is young. We just saw how he, his parents came to have him, how the Lord gave him to his parents, and his parents lent him to the service of the Lord, and how he ended up in the temple with Eli. He's a very young man. I don't know exactly how old he is. It says the child, Samuel, but I would say he was a young man, a young man, probably under the age of 20, but he was young. He was young. The glory of this passage, though, and the glory of Samuel's life, is that God called him. That's the glory of any sinner's life, that God would call him to himself. Oh, that God would call us. That's my prayer. I pray God would call me, and I pray God would call you. Oh, that God would call us.

This is life eternal. This is salvation. This is where it begins. It begins with God's call, not our decision. Most people believe it begins with our decision. God's not going to save you until you make a decision. That's not so. Salvation. the realization of our eternal salvation, begins with God's call, starts with him. It ends with him. Everything in the middle is of him. Verse Four says, "The Lord called Samuel, and he answered, here am I. It was a call that Samuel knew he was called, and he answered, here am I, and he ran unto Eli, and that's a good thing to do. If a person feels like the Lord is calling him, run to the servant of the Lord run to the messenger of the word of the Lord. That's what Samuel did. He ran unto Eli and he said, "Here am I, for that callest me. The only problem he has is he thought Eli was the one doing the calling. He was looking to the man, but Eli said, "I called not. Lie down again," and he went and laid down.

The Lord called, yet again. Samuel. Called him again, and Samuel arose, and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for thou didst call me," and he answered, "I called not, my son. Lie down again." Samuel did not yet know the Lord. Neither was the word of the Lord yet revealed unto him. Here's the first thing we need to see in this, in this thing of, has god called me? This is so important. I pray the Lord will truly impress this upon our hearts. It is not enough to just go to church. That's not enough. Many people believe, well, I go to church. What do you hear in there? I don't know, but I go. I show up. It's my moral duty. I go to church. It is not enough. If come the end of this life, all we've done is just gone to church. It will not stand in the end. It's not enough.

Samuel, it says, did not yet know the Lord. That's a common place for people to be who are in church. It's a common place for people to be. They're in church. They're in religion, but they don't yet know the Lord. They may be involved in the service of the Lord, but they don't yet know the Lord. Samuel was, as people would say, constantly in church. He actually lived there. He lived there. He was in the work, in the service of the ministry, but he did not yet know the Lord. This is so critical. Samuel, however old he was, had been around it all his life. From the moment he was weaned, he was in that temple. Some people can say the same thing. I've been sitting in church since I was a ... Started in the nursery, went to the Sunday school classes and ended up in the pew. He was around it all his life. It's all he'd ever known, but he still did not yet know the Lord.

I have to ask myself that question, and I ask you that question. Do we know him, or are we just in religion, and in church? Has he revealed himself to us? Has he called us to the truth of his word? I'm sure that Samuel knew God had a chosen people. I'm sure he knew some things. He knew God had a chosen people, Israel. He knew that. He knew that everything they did in that temple pertained to Israel. I'm sure he knew that they were all sinners. I'm sure Samuel knew everybody there was a sinner, including himself. I'm sure he knew that, and the reason is because they were constantly offering sacrifices for sin. The priest would offer a sacrifice for himself and then a sacrifice for the people. They were constantly offering sacrifices for sin. Samuel knew that.

I'm sure that he knew God is holy. I'm sure Samuel knew that. Samuel, do you believe God is holy? Oh, yes. I believe God is holy. Why do you believe that? It's because we're constantly offering sacrifices for sin. I'm sure Samuel knew that blood is what God required to pay the debt of sin, and the reason is because they were constantly offering sacrifices for sin, shedding blood, shedding blood, shedding blood. I'm sure Samuel's heart was sincere. I'm sure he was dedicated. I'm sure his doctrine was correct, but here's the fact of the matter. God says, Samuel did not yet know the Lord. He couldn't. Samuel could not, and the reason is because, it says in Verse Seven, "The word of the Lord was not yet revealed to him." He could not know the Lord. No man or woman can know the Lord unless the Lord knows them first, and that's the truth. That's the truth.

Unless God reveals himself to them first, then a sinner cannot know the revelation of the Lord. Salvation is of the Lord. It's his doing. It's his movement, his action. That realization, that revelation comes to whomever he is pleased to give it to. What I want to know, and I believe what you want to know is, will it come to me? Will that revelation come to me? Will God reveal himself to me? How can I know if God has revealed himself to me, or if God is going to reveal himself to me? How can I know if he has called me, or he's going to call me? Verse Eight says, "And the Lord called Samuel again the third time." The Lord called Samuel three times, and in that we can see the father, son, and spirit.

He was called to see the godhead, the work of the father in choosing him, the work of the son in redeeming, paying all the debt, dying for sinners, the work of the spirit in bringing life to sinners, quickening sinners. When a sinner is called, he's called to see that this is God's work, not man's. This is God's doing. He sees it in the word. He hears it in the gospel preached. Verse Eight says, "And the Lord called Samuel again the third time, and he arose and went to Eli." He went to God's preacher, and this call comes through the message of the gospel. When God calls a sinner, he calls them through the message of his word. The Lord called Samuel again the third time, and he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here am I, for thou didst to call me," and Eli perceived that the Lord had called the child.

Samuel came running and Eli said, "I didn't call you, go lie down." Samuel came the second time and Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go lie down." Samuel came the third time and Eli said, "The

Lord is calling him." He perceived the Lord is calling him. Verse Nine. Therefore, Eli said unto Samuel, "Go lie down." All right, this is the message that God's preacher preached to God's child. This sinner, this is Samuel's message. This is what he heard. This was his call. All right. In Verse Nine, Eli said unto Samuel, first thing, go lie down. Go lie down. Samuel, you can't do anything in this. When it comes to your salvation, there is no role for you to play. What must I do? Go lie down. Just go lie down. Samuel, you are a sinner who is dead in trespasses and sins. Go assume your place. You must decrease. You're nothing. You have nothing. Go lie down.

Verse Nine, he said, "And it shall be." That's good news. It shall be exactly as God purposes for it to be. Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world, and they all shall be. They're ordered. Sure. Unchangeable. Samuel heard in Verse Nine, go lie down and it shall be, if he called thee, if he calls you, it is his decision, not ours. It is his will, not ours. It's his doing, not ours. He does this for whomever he's pleased to do it for. If he calls thee, Verse Nine says, thou shalt say, if he calls, thou shalt say, this is how you're going to know it. How will I know if God calls me? If he calls, thou shalt say, you're going to say, you're going to cry out to him and say, Verse Nine, "Speak, Lord, Lord, Lord." That means God. That means Jehovah. That means master, sovereign, ruler controller. You're my owner. I bow to you. I want you to be my God. I want you to sovereignly rule over me.

If he calls, we will say, "I will have you reign over me. I bow. I'm low, and you're high and lifted up. Speak, Lord." He said, thy servant heareth. You're the master. I'm the servant. You're the master. I'm the dog, and I'm happy to just sit here as your dog. Sit at your feet and wait for your answer. I know that I'm not owed an answer. I know I don't deserve an answer, but I sit and I wait anyway. I'll cherish your every word. If you'd just speak to me, I'm in your hands. I'm in your mercy. Eli said, "Samuel, that's how it's going to happen. That's how it will happen." The end of Verse Nine says, "So Samuel went and lay down in his place." Verse 10 says, "And the Lord came." I love that. The Lord came, and stood, and called, as at other times, "Samuel, Samuel." Then Samuel answered, "Speak, for thy Servant heareth." Speak for thy servant heareth.

If God reveals who he is in his sovereignty to you, cry, "Lord, I hear your voice. I hear your word. I hear your call. Salvation is of you, and that's all my desire. I wait, I bow, I look." May the lord call us. Till next week, may he bless his word to our hearts.

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