

## 1 Samuel #03 – SERMON NOTES

1 Samuel 3

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### Homiletical Proposition & Outline...

Proposition: The Word of God limits us, calls and empowers us

1. It is true and certain
2. It calls us to servanthood and submission
3. It changes us or hardens us

The Word of God is true and certain

The Word of God determines what we can, and can't, do

the Word of God lays claim over all of our lives

the Word of God calls us to submission and servanthood

the Word of God shapes and empowers us as we submit to it

those who obey the Word will be strengthened, those who reject the Word will be hardened against it

intro... this is dangerous stuff... keep away... the power of a nuclear explosion...

Walk thru the story...

V.1 Samuel is called a young man = somewhere around 12...

And the Word of God was rare... there was no frequent vision... they had the Law of Moses, but God was not sending prophets to them much...

And the nation was in a world of hurt because of this...

The culture was a mess... families were a mess... and it was all founded upon the fact that they did not have the Word of God...

So far in the book of 1 Samuel we've met two messed up families...

Elkanah, the father of Samuel, decided to rebel against the Law of Moses and took himself a second wife... which made a dysfunction family all the more dysfunction...

And Eli, the high priest of Israel has two sons who are scoundrel who he honors more than God Himself... Eli knows his sons are adulterous thieves... and he does nothing to stop them... doesn't remove them from the office of priest... just warns them not to be so public about this...

So in v. 1, the author is using understatement... the nation is messed up... families are messed up... people's lives are messed up...all b/c they did not have a Word from God...

**any person, or family, without God's Word will wander aimlessly and eventually fall into self-destructive behavior... – Arnold...**

Any marriage without God's Word will wander aimlessly and eventually fall into self-destructive behavior...

Any teens w/o God's Word will wander aimlessly and eventually fall into self-destructive behavior...

Any husbands w/o God's Word will wander aimlessly and eventually fall into self-destructive behavior...

Any wives w/o God's Word will wander aimlessly and eventually fall into self-destructive behavior...

And God has had enough of that...

So...

READ v. 2.... as the high priest, he had a living quarters in the temple compound itself...

V. 3 – the lamp of God = from Leviticus 24:2 “Command the people of Israel to bring pure oil from beaten olives for the lamp, that a light may be kept burning regularly... outside the veil of testimony, in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall arrange it from evening to morning before the Lord...”

So this all happens in the middle of the night, maybe towards day... but that’s what the lamp of God is...

And Samuel is sleeping there... he, too, has a room in the temple compound... he probably is not next to the Ark of the covenant... probably the one in charge of lighting and tending the lamp of God...

So that’s the scene... no Word of God... Eli asleep...

And he hears something...

READ v. 4-6...

He is awakened by the sound of someone calling him... runs to Eli... Eli says, ‘go back to sleep’...

so twice Samuel is called, twice he goes to Eli... both times, Eli says... go back to sleep...

Now, verse 7 has a bit of an interesting question for us...

READ v. 7... how can Samuel who’s been ministering before the Lord, and growing before the Lord and growing in favor before the Lord now be said to not know the LORD?

Well, here’s what’s going on... Samuel is a saved young man... and has been serving the Lord in the Tabernacle... but he’s not a prophet yet... he keeps mistaking the Word of God for the voice of Eli...

All this means is that he’s not yet realized that God is the calling him... Not a statement about his soul’s condition...

This all happens again...

READ v. 8...

So the lightbulb had gone off... and Eli’s figured it out... this is not a dream... God is calling Samuel..

It’s interesting that Eli says, “Speak, LORD...”

But Samuel just says, “Speak, for your servant...”

I don’t know why he did that... but it apparently is no big thing...

Now, before we read it... remember, families are messed up... the culture is messed up... if you don’t know, just think about what message you would expect God to give...

A message of hope, peace and answers?

Something along the lines of Jeremiah 29:11, “For I know the thoughts I think towards you, saith the LORD, thought of peace,

and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart...”

Or maybe Isaiah 41 – Don’t be afraid, for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged, for I am your God, I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you with my victorious right hand...”

Something like that?

Or something like Isaiah 40 – “Comfort, comfort my people, says your God...”

Well, we’re in for a bit of a shock...

Read vv. 11-14...

That’s bad news... that’s very bad news... that’s awful news...

And please notice w/ me that this is against Eli’s family... God is promising to remove Eli’s family from the position of priests... to remove their influence from the nation...

This is a very bad thing, from Eli’s point of view...

And this is not the first time he’s gotten this message... last week in chapter 2, we saw that God sent a messenger to Eli w/ this same news...

The first prophetic message Samuel gets... is a message of judgment upon his boss and religious leader... Eli...

This is a public shame... all of Israel is going to know about this... their sin was public... their judgment is going to be public, too...

And God tells Samuel why He is going to punish Eli’s house...  
READ v. 13... He did not restrain them...

He only talks with them... and tells them to cut it out... he never, ever, does anything to stop them... these two men, sons of Eli are priests... who are blaspheming God by their treatment of God’s offering and their abuse of the women who work with them at the temple...

And Eli doesn’t fire them... doesn’t rebuke them... only talks with them...

Not a message we would expect...

Read v. 15 – so Samuel stays away... you can’t go back to sleep after hearing from God...

But Eli wants to hear what God had to say... READ vv. 16-17..

Samuel is a bit hesitant... I mean this isn’t good news he’s got to deliver here...

And Eli threatens him... Eli certainly is flippant w/ how he talks about God...

Here, he puts Samuel under a curse for no good reason... and drags God into the mix...

REREAD v. 17...

So Samuel tells...

READ v. 18...

Eli's response is just a double-edge sword...

He doesn't get angry... which is good...

But neither does he admit any guilt... doesn't ask Sam to pray with him... doesn't ask Sam to pray for him... still doesn't remove his sons from the priesthood... doesn't beg Samuel to not be like his sons...

Again, he does absolutely nothing... He gets a direct revelation from God's Word about his immediate family... and it doesn't move him in any direction whatsoever...

That, my dear friends, is called water off a duck's back...

He's a believer.... but God's Word has no impact on him whatsoever...

This is so very sad...

But the story doesn't end there...

B/c that same Word that has hardened Eli has molded and shaped Samuel... that Word of God has empowered him... and he's doing things he never would have thought he could possibly do...

READ vv. 19-4:1a...

Samuel goes in this short chapter from being a teen who is saved...

to a giant of the faith...

He's is now on the par with Moses....

And it's not because of his personality... he's certainly not because of his family's perfection..

It's not because of any other reason that this...

He responded in obedience to the Word of God... and the Word of God has changed him... it has strengthened him... it has shaped him...

This chapter is not about Samuel... nor about Eli...

Its all about the power of the Word of God...

V. 1– the Word of God was rare in those days...

The Word of God...

1. Hardens those who reject it...
  - a. Eli has heard and heard God's message...
  - b. He knows what the Bible says...
  - c. But see, he's got these boys...
  - d. And he is honoring them more that he is honoring God...
  - e. And not only does he have the Law of Moses...
  - f. Which he's ignoring...
  - g. But he also has two direct revelations of God's Word to him...
  - h. The first from an unnamed prophet in chapter 2..
  - i. Who told him that God will punish his house...
  - j. And now, a second time, God sends a message to Eli thru Samuel...

- k. And both times, Eli hears the Word of God...
- l. And does nothing about it...
- m. No hint of repentance...
- n. No hint of needing to change...
- o. Even here in chapter 3, it is also most as if he shrugs his shoulders and says... let's move on...
- p. The Word of God is so powerful that it can, and does, harden those who hear it... and then reject it...
- q. And sometimes, that's a dramatic once and for all rejection like Pharoah after hearing God's Word thru Mose...
- r. "Still Pharoah's heart was hardened... and he would not listen..."
- s. Or the people of israel... "they made their diamond-hard stone, so they would not hear the instructions or the messages that the LORD of Heaven's Armies had sent them by His Spirit through the prophets..." – Zechariah 7:12...
- t. Or the people to whom the book of Hebrews writes these frightening words...
- u. "That is they the Holy Spirit says, "Today, when you hear His voice, do not hardened your hearts as Israel did... but exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today" that none of you may be hardned by the deceitfulness of sin..."
- v. The truth of the matter is... if you reject the Word of God one time...
- w. It becomes much, much, easire to reject it a second time...
- x. And then the third time is a piece of cake...
- y. The first time you lied to the boss... it bothered you... you knew you should go and confess... as the Word of god says to...

- z. But you didn't...
- aa. And the next time the need to lie came up... You were able to lie again...
- bb. And again...
- cc. You are being hardened against the Word of God...
- dd. Men, lie to your wife one time... it becomes much easire to lie to her the second time...
- ee. So now, you can lie w/o batting an eye...
- ff. Teens the first time you lied to your parents...
- gg. Missing a church service (ABF//Wednesday prayer meeting)... had to make excuses... now, it never enters your mind that you are missing anything at all...
- hh. For those who are not saved... this is how it works for you, too...
  - i. Hear the Gospel and turn away...
  - ii. It become easier to turn away the second time...
  - iii. Behold, now is the favorable time... behold, now is the day of salvation...
- ii. for all of us... if we reject the Word of God... you will end up doing things you never thought you'd be doing...
- jj. And saying things you can't believe you hear yourself say...
- kk. All b/c your disobedience to the Word of God is chaging you...
- ll. slowly... over time... also without perception... but it's happening... you are being hardened in your

heart... in your life from the things of God...

2. But those who submit themselves to the Word of God experience the wonderful truth that they are changed by that same Word...
  - a. Matthew 22:29, “But Jesus answered them and said, You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God...”
  - b. 1 Cor 1:19 – the word of the Gospel of God to us who are being saved it is the power of God...”
  - c. Psalm 19– the Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul... the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple...
  - d. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart, the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes, the fear of the Lord is clear, enduring forever, the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether...
  - e. More to be desired are they than gold, even much finer gold, sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb...
  - f. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward...
  - g. Those who submit themselves to the Word find themselves changed by that very same word...
  - h. Forgiveness...’
  - i. Going and being reconciled...
  - j. Teens... submitting to your parents... honoring them by helping the family get out the door for ABF and church...

- k. Singles... not seeking an unsaved mate... focusing on the Lord...
  1. Those who submit to the Word of our God will be changed by the Word of our God...

You will find yourself doing and saying things you never would have thought you’d be doing or saying... b/c your obedience to the Word of God changed you... for the better...