

Samuel - His Early Life II

by Stephen Kaung

Samuel's life and ministry serve as an example of the importance of early training and education, humility and faithfulness, and the call to ministry and service.

Duration: 1:06:34

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:24, 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 1 Samuel 3:19, 1 Samuel 4:1, 1 Samuel 4:15-18, 1 Samuel 4:21-22

Topics: "Personal Relationship", "Serving God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of having a personal relationship with God. He uses the story of Samuel in the Bible to illustrate how God can speak to individuals and raise them up for His purposes. The preacher encourages the audience to seek God with all their hearts and be willing to receive training and discipline to become vessels for God's work. He emphasizes that serving God based on tradition or second-hand knowledge is not enough, and that true service comes from knowing God personally. The sermon concludes with a call to expect the Lord's return and to eagerly await the establishment of His kingdom.

Transcript

■■■■■■■■■■ First Samuel Chapter 1 ■■■■■■■■■■ We read from verse 24 ■■■■■■■■■■ First Samuel Chapter 1 verse 24 ■■■■■■■■■■ And she took him up with her the she here is Hannah and the him is Samuel and Hannah took Samuel up with her when she had weaned him with three bullets and one ephah of flour and a flask of wine and brought him to the house of Jehovah to Shiloh and the boy was young and they slaughtered the bullet and brought the boy to Eli and she said oh my lord as thy soul lives my lord I'm the woman that stood by thee here to pray to Jehovah for this boy I pray and Jehovah has granted me my petition which I ask of him and also I have lent him to Jehovah all the days that he lives he is lent to Jehovah and he worshiped Jehovah there and the boy Samuel ministered to Jehovah before Eli

and the word of Jehovah was rare in those days a vision was not frequent and it came to pass at that time when Eli lay in his place now his eyes began to grow dim he could not see and the lamp of God had not yet gone out and Samuel lay in the temple of Jehovah where the ark of God was that Jehovah called to Samuel and he said here am I and he ran to Eli and he said here am I for thou callest me and he said I did not call lie down again and he went and lay down and Jehovah called again Samuel and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said here am I for thou callest me and he said I did not call my son lie down again now Samuel did not yet know Jehovah neither had the word of Jehovah yet been revealed to him and Jehovah

called again the third time Samuel and he arose and went to Eli and said

here am I for thou callest me and Eli perceived that Jehovah was calling the boy and Eli said to Samuel go lie down and it shall be if he call thee that thou shall say speak Jehovah for thy servants hearing so Samuel went and lay down in his place and Jehovah came and called and called as at the other time Samuel Samuel and Samuel said speak for thy servants hearing Samuel recited chapter three chapter one and Samuel served Jehovah before Eli and in those days Jehovah did not speak much and did not have much to say one day Eli lay down in his own place his eyes were dim and he could not see clearly and he was waiting in the shop of Jehovah where the moon was and there was no sun and Samuel was already asleep and Jehovah called Samuel and Samuel said I am here and went to Eli and said you

called me I am here and Eli said I did not call you go to sleep and he went to sleep and Jehovah called Samuel again and Samuel got up and said to Eli you called me I am here and Eli said my son I did not call you go to sleep and at that time Samuel did not know Jehovah and did not know Jehovah's end and Jehovah called Samuel for the third time and Samuel got up and said to Eli you called me again I am here and Eli realized Jehovah called his son and Eli said to Samuel you can go to sleep and Jehovah called you again and you said Jehovah please say please Jehovah went and he slept and Jehovah came again and called Samuel for the third time and said Samuel Samuel answered please say please May we have a further word of prayer Let us have a little prayer Dear Lord as we gather together in

thy presence Our hearts are full of gratitude.

We thank Thee for Thy amazing love for us, that Thou should die for us, that Thou should give Thy own life to us, and Thou does love us even to the uttermost. Lord, as we are here before Thee, our hearts long to hear Thy voice.

Speak to us as Thou didst speak to Samuel. Call us to be what Thou want us to be. May Thy name be glorified in our lives, and may Thy work be done.

We ask in Thy precious name. Last night we mentioned that we will spend our time together, this time on Samuel. We are interested in Samuel, not because just we want to know his story.

But because Samuel illustrates to us an important principle. Samuel is an epoch-making vessel of God. Through Samuel, God changed the time of the judges to the time of the kings.

And brothers and sisters, we realize that today, we are on the verge of another big change. Thank God we have been in this age of grace for over two thousand years. The time has been long.

It tells us of the long patience of God. Because He does not want any to perish, but everyone to believe unto eternal life. For this time of grace is coming to an end.

Because our Lord Jesus is coming again. At His first coming, He brought in grace. Now at His second coming, He will on the one hand judge this world.

And on the other hand, He will come to receive His own unto Himself. The time of grace is almost over. And the time of justice, righteousness is coming upon this earth.

But for the change of time, it is God's way always to find some vessel that He can use. So that He can make the change. And as in the time of Samuel, God raised up Samuel to be that effort making vessel.

So in our days, we believe that God is looking for a corporate effort making vessel. God wants to have a number of people who will be like Samuel. That God can use to change the time.

To bring in the king. To bring in the kingdom of God. So brothers and sisters, we find in the life of Samuel, we can learn why God used Samuel.

And by the grace of God, we hope that He will use us in the same way. Last evening, we mentioned about the birth of Samuel. Samuel was born supernaturally.

Because his mother Hannah was barren. But through travailing prayer, Hannah began to realize that God also had a need. And she prayed to God.

If you will give me a son, I will lend it to you. And God answered her prayer. And Samuel was born.

You know Samuel means ask for of God. And Hannah means grace. Now in the same way, you will find God is working in our life.

We were born once of the flesh. But thank God we are being born again. The second birth is supernatural.

It is because of the finished work of our Lord Jesus. So the Holy Spirit is able to beget us into new life. So in a sense, our birth is like Samuel.

But remember, Samuel was born for a purpose. He was not born just for his mother. He was not born just for himself.

He was born for the will of God. So before he was born, his mother made a vow. It is the vow of the Nazirite.

That the child to be born is to be a Nazirite for life. A Nazirite is one who devotes his life to God. A Nazirite is one who lives for God.

Whatever God may use the Nazirite, the principle is he lives for God. And Samuel is a Nazirite for life. So brothers and sisters, we believe that this happens to all of us in the same way.

We are not only supernaturally born again. But we are born for a purpose. We are born to be a Nazirite for life.

To be separated from everything. Separated from the world. Separated even from ourselves.

And to be wholly given to God. Allowing God to work out his purpose in our lives. Dear brothers and sisters, do you realize that you are born a Nazirite? You are born again to be a Nazirite for life.

As we mentioned last night, by his right of redemption, he can claim us to live for him. But he will rather persuade us by his love. He wants to use his love to constrain us.

That we may voluntarily give ourselves to him. And allow him to work out his full salvation in us. And so God's purpose may be done in us.

Now this morning we would like to go a little bit further. And it is about the making or the training of an epoch making vessel. Samuel was born.

He was born a Nazirite. But to be that epoch making vessel, needs something more than just being born. Needs more than just be called and elected.

We find that to be really to be an epoch making vessel. There is certain training, certain discipline that need to be done in that life. So generally speaking brothers and sisters, every one of you is born a Nazirite.

And God's purpose in each of your life is that you may be in that epoch making vessel. You may be the one that will bring in the king. And what a glorious work that is.

Are you expecting the Lord to come again? Are you waiting for the kingdom of God? And what a work is entrusted to such people. And you are elected to be such. But then you need to make your election and calling sure.

That is you need to go through certain training. After Samuel was born, his mother said, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] And then she will take him to the house of God in Shiloh. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] And will leave him there.

[REDACTED] So first of all you find in the training of this epoch making vessel. [REDACTED] It was done at home. [REDACTED] Now in the old days, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] In the home.

[REDACTED] You know Hannah not only nurse him. Hannah [REDACTED], But as he was nursing him. [REDACTED], He impart to this little child a sense of God.

[REDACTED] A sense of the fear of God. [REDACTED] You know a child is very limited in his understanding. [REDACTED] Sometimes we think well he is just a baby, he is just a child.

What does he know? [REDACTED]? But strangely you find, [REDACTED], Even if a child is so limited in understanding, [REDACTED], And yet he is born with an intuitive capacity for God. [REDACTED] So you find Hannah being grace. [REDACTED] Hannah [REDACTED] He imparts to his child the fear of God.

[REDACTED] That there is a God. [REDACTED] That this God is to be worshipped. [REDACTED] You know his understanding may be very very little.

[REDACTED] But an impression is given to that child. [REDACTED] It is a kind of attitude. [REDACTED] Not so much of knowledge.

[REDACTED] But it is an attitude. [REDACTED] And that inward attitude you find was instilled in this child. [REDACTED] You remember in the book of Proverbs.

[REDACTED] There is such a word. [REDACTED] Train up a child. According to the tenor of his way.

And even when he is old. He will not depart from it. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] If you train up a child.

[REDACTED] According to the tenor of his way. In other words according at the very outset of his life. [REDACTED] You know you train a child at the very beginning of his life.

Now it is true. Worship is the highest spiritual experience you can ever have. And yet it is also the foundational, the most beginning of your spiritual experience.

You remember in John Chapter 4. Our Lord Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman. And this Samaritan woman was a sinful woman. And she already had five husbands.

And the sixth one actually was not her husband. And she was thirsty. And you remember our Lord talked to her.

And offered to her the living water. And as our Lord was talking to her. She began to realize that our Lord Jesus must be a prophet.

And so she began to ask a question. She said we Samaritans worship in the Mount of Gerasim. And you Jews worship in the temple in Jerusalem.

Now, who is right? Why should you worship? And the Lord said the time has come. And now is. You do not worship in Mount Gerasim nor in the temple in Jerusalem.

You worship in spirit and in truth. Do you think our Lord was discussing such a high theological subject with this sinful woman? No, Because we are born instinctively with a sense of God. We know we are limited.

We need someone who is higher than us. To worship and to trust. It is a human instinct.

You know whenever you are in trouble, you call heaven. It is an instinct within us. So at the very beginning, that instinct needs to be brought up.

Let our children know there is God. Let our children know how to worship God. Worship simply means putting God in his rightful place.

And we put ourselves in our proper place. He is God. We are His created.

And we worship Him.

That's natural. But look at this boy. He was surrounded by this adverse situation.

And yet he did not learn the bad habits of the two sons of Eli. You know, as a boy, he would naturally look at these two sons as models. Yet he did not follow them.

He purposed in his heart to keep himself pure for God. Do you remember Daniel? Daniel. Do you remember Daniel? When he was in his teens, he was captured into Babylon.

As a hostage. He was in a bad environment. And out of this bad environment as a hostage.

He was suddenly given such a brilliant future. He was chosen to be one of the young people. To be trained for three years.

To learn all the learnings of Babylon. And to stand before the greatest king in the world. And for three years, they were to be fed with the king's food and the king's wine.

Now what an unexpected blessing. But Daniel purposed in his heart not to be polluted by the king's wine and the king's food. And how God preserved him.

And how God gave him wisdom. And how God used him mightily to be a witness for God. To the nation.

Two brothers and sisters. You know sometimes God may put you into a not too good condition. You know sometimes God may put you into a not too good condition.

We think that church is like heaven. You know the world is evil. But when you come to church, you live in heaven.

It is all hallelujah. And everything is just glorious. What did you find out? Did you find out that church is like heaven? The longer you are in the church, you may feel the church is like a cave.

Ah, you'll find in the church poverty. Ah, you'll find in the church many maneuvering. Ah, you'll find in the church there was hatred, jealousy, contention.

Now as young people, what will you do? Learn humility. Learn to keep yourself pure for God. God put you in such environment with a purpose.

He wants you to learn so that you may be an honorable vessel to God. Thank God for sharing. So dear brothers and sisters, young people here, do not complain of any situation, whether it is adverse or whether it is smooth.

God put you there to learn to develop your character. Be faithful to the Lord. Keep yourself pure for the Lord.

And in due time, the Lord will exalt you. But Samuel, at that time, did not know God. He knew of God.

You know, he had a sense within him. From his childhood, he knew there is God. And he feared God.

Now the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. But he had not had a personal contact with God yet. But then the day came.

One day Samuel was in bed. And God came to him. And called him.

Samuel heard. He thought he was Eli. So he got up and went to Eli.

And he was done three times. And finally it dawned upon that old man. It must be God who is calling him.

You know, Eli had that experience before. But he was long forgotten. So it did not dawn to him until three times later.

So he told Samuel. Well, the old man still had something to help the young man. So he said, when you hear the voice.

You say. Here. Jehovah.

Your servant. Here. And sure enough, the Lord came the fourth time.

He stood by his bed. And said, Samuel. Samuel.

And Samuel said, dear Lord. Your servant. Here.

That's the beginning of a personal touch with the Lord. And from that time onward, you'll find how he grew in the Lord. You know, during the days of Eli.

The Word of God was rare. And the vision was always unknown. In other words, the spiritual condition was so low.

God was not able to speak to his people. God was not able to appear to his people. You know, God wants to speak.

God wants to appear. Because he loves his people. But the condition of the people were such.

They shut the mouth of God. They put God out of the door. But thank you, God.

So Samuel. God began to appear again. God began to speak again.

His Word came to Samuel. And whatever Samuel said, it became true. So everybody knew God had raised up a prophet.

Dear brothers and sisters. You know, this is the way that an effort making vessel is being made. Not because you're born from above.

Not because you're called to be a Nazarite. But because you're willing. To receive the training.

You're willing to allow the character of Christ being built up within you. You are faithful. You have a heart for God.

And you're seeking him with all your heart. Sooner or later. The Lord will come to you.

There will be such a personal contact with the Lord. You will have first hand knowledge of God. You cannot serve God with second hand or third hand knowledge.

If you serve God according to tradition. It's a disservice to God. You can only serve God when you know him personally.

When he by his Spirit speaks to you. In the Old Testament time. The Holy Spirit has not yet come.

So you find God has to appear to them. He has to speak to them. Audibly.

Physically. But today. The Holy Spirit has come.

He dwells in each one of us. And through by the Holy Spirit. God will speak to your spirit.

A still small voice. Speaking. In the innermost of your being.

Saying this is the way. Walking in it. This is not the way.

Don't go into it. It doesn't matter. You find that you need to have that intimate personal knowledge of the Lord.

When you read the Bible. As you are waiting upon him. As you are meditating upon his Word.

The Holy Spirit will enlighten the Word to you. The Holy Spirit will speak to you through the written Word. Sometimes you will convince.

You have full confidence. You need to call upon your faith and repent. Sometimes.

He loves you. Seeing the marvelous grace of God. That you have to praise and worship.

You need that personal God. Do not try to seek for supernatural power. If you are faithful in small things.

If you are learning Christ. He will come to you. He will speak to you.

And he will appear to you. In your spirit. You can see Him.

Say I do see. I do see. I know what He wants.

I am willing to do His will. Brothers and sisters. Begin with small things.

And the Lord will ask you. If you are faithful. Until a ministry is being produced.

And then you will be used by God. As an epoch making act. What a glorious work this is.

That you will be privileged. To bring in the King. Come quickly.

The more you come. Let us pray together. Since we thank you.

Because you will come again. When you come. It is a time of glory.

You will establish your kingdom in this world. Do apprehend each one of us here. That each one will really offer himself or herself to you.

Willing to be trained by your spirit. That you can use to do this work. Lord hear our prayer.

In the name of our Lord. Lord hear our prayer.

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