

Samuel - His Early Life, Part 1

by Stephen Kaung

God is looking for effort-making vessels to bring about change in the world, and He desires to use people who are willing to be used by Him.

Duration: 1:06:45

Topics: "Freedom In Christ", "Obedience To God"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher shares a story from the old days in America about a slave market. A little girl is being auctioned off as a slave, and she feels hopeless as people bid for her. However, a man comes in and buys her at a high price. He then sets her free and walks away, but the girl runs after him, willing to be his slave. The preacher uses this story to illustrate how God has set us free from sin and offers us the choice to willingly serve Him. He emphasizes the importance of living for God and not conforming to the world, as well as the need for obedience and submission to God.

Transcript

Thank you. As I waited before the Lord for this time, I felt that probably it is of the Lord that we should consider the life of Samuel. We will not be able to cover his whole life.

But we would like to consider the early days of his life. Samuel occupies a very important place in the Bible. Because he is an effort-making vessel of God.

God used him to change the times. Changing from the time of the judges to the time of the kings. We remember when the children of Israel came out of Egypt, God led them into Canaan, the promised land.

But because of their unfaithfulness, they were not able to occupy the whole promised land. Instead of that, we find how the enemies within them and around them oppress them from time to time. God has mercy upon them.

When they cried to the Lord, the Lord heard them. And he sent to them judges to deliver them from the enemies. But even while the judges were there, the children of Israel did not really return to the Lord.

So you find the whole book of judges is a book of oppression and revival. Because of their unfaithfulness, God allowed their enemies to oppress them. And when they were under oppression, they cried to the Lord.

Now brothers and sisters, why do we want to go to the story of Samuel? It is not because we want to review past history. We remember that whatever is recorded is for our admonition. For those who live at the end of days.

Brothers and sisters, we are the people who live at the end time. We are living on the verge of another change. You know we have been living under the time of grace for almost two thousand years.

God so loved the world. He showed His pity, His mercy towards us. So He sent His only begotten son, our Lord Jesus into this world.

About two thousand years ago, God sent His son, His only begotten son into this world. And while He was on this earth, He declared to us, The God that we should know. And in order to save us, He went to the cross on our step.

He became the Lamb of God. He took upon Himself the sins of this world. And there on the cross, He died for us.

In order that God's grace may come upon us. Whoever believes in Him, shall not perish, but has everlasting life. And this gospel has been spreading through twenty centuries.

Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ, as the Son of God, as the Christ. He shall be saved. So we have been living under this age of grace for about two thousand years.

But then, God is going to change the time. The Bible tells us, One day our Lord Jesus will return again. And when He shall return, He will judge the world.

And at the same time, He will receive to Himself His own bride, that is those who believe in Him. And every sign on this earth shows us, that this day is drawing nearer and nearer. So dear brothers and sisters, We know that we live at the very end of the end time.

The day of grace shall soon pass. And the day of righteousness shall come upon this earth. Our Lord Jesus will come back to this world.

And He will set up His kingdom upon this earth. And righteousness shall be the rule of the age. But for the changing of this time.

With the same principle. God is looking for an effort making vessel. God is looking for people who will sympathize with God.

Who are willing to give themselves to God. Who will bring God's will upon this earth. Whom God can use to change the time.

But the only difference is here. Instead of using one individual like Samuel. Today God is going to use a corporate vessel.

A group of people. Whom God has chosen. Whom God has elected.

And whom God can use to make the transfer. You remember at the first coming of our Lord Jesus. You had these people also upon this earth.

When God was going to bring his son into this world. Two thousand years ago. He was also looking for such epoch making vessel.

And when you read the four Gospels. You find that he finds such people. Such as Zechariah and Elizabeth.

You know this couple, elderly couple. How they love God. How they fear God.

And how God was able to use them. To bring forth John the Baptist. The forerunner of our Lord Jesus.

To prepare the way of the Lord. And at the same time. You find there was a virgin called Mary.

And God was able to use her to bring forth His beloved son. And you find in the temple there was Simeon. There was Anna.

So during that time. There were some people. Who were really looking for the coming of the Messiah.

And they were preparing His way. And through these people. The Son of God was brought into this world for the first time.

Now, with the second coming of our Lord Jesus. The Lord is coming soon. So He has been looking for such vessels.

The people who were bringing the King. And these are the effort making vessels. So dear brothers and sisters.

We find that the life of Samuel is very important to us. Because in his life we can learn the principles. The principle by which God will raise up effort making vessels.

And by the grace of God. Hopefully that we may be such vessels. Fit for the master's use.

Now this evening we will just go into the birth of Samuel. How this effort making vessel came into the world. So will you please

But if a woman could not bear children, She was considered as being cursed by God. But here you find a very strange case. Because Hannah was a godly woman.

Hannah And yet somehow she could not bear children. On the contrary, there was another woman. She was not a godly woman.

Actually she was a jealous and mocking woman. And yet she was blessed with many children. So every time when the family went to Shiloh to worship the Lord, And they would eat and drink before the Lord.

Hannah couldn't eat. Hannah Because she was always provoked by that evil woman. Probably that wicked woman said, well, you appear to be very godly, but look.

You have no child. It shows that you are cursed by God. So every year when they went to the feast, He couldn't eat.

He wept. But there was no solution. Now no doubt Hannah prayed to God.

Hannah You know when a godly woman was faced with a problem. Surely she will pray to God. So Hannah must have prayed and prayed and prayed.

She couldn't understand why. As if God did not do according to his word. But she was not offended by God.

You know many people, when they thought that this is what God should do, and God didn't do it. they would be offended at God. But not Hannah.

Hannah Year after year she was provoked. But year after year she prayed. She was praying that God would give her an answer.

Now as she was praying year after year, she was praying that God will answer her and give her a son. Then she began to wonder why God did not answer her. Why is it that God brought him into such difficult situation? A situation that will bring shame to God as well as to her.

Because God seemingly did not do according to what He promised. But as she was travelling in prayer, finally she realized. She realized the reason why God shut out her womb.

Because God had a higher purpose for her life. God wanted to use her. Brothers and sisters, sometimes you find we may be in a situation that could not be explained.

As if those who do not fear God are blessed and those who fear God are cursed. As if God does not do according to what He said. Are you offended? Or do you continue to wait upon Him? Until you find out that

He has a higher purpose in your life.

Because God considers you as able to be His chosen vessel. So finally one year, when they again went to the temple to worship God. And once again she was provoked by that wicked woman.

She could not eat. So she just knelt before God. And she was praying.

But she did not pray audibly. Her lips were moving. But there was no sound.

She prayed. Lord, if you will give me a son. I will give it back to you.

I will lend it to you. And throughout his life, there will be no razor coming upon his head. While she was praying, the judge, the priest, Eli, was sitting nearby.

And she noticed her lips were moving, but there was no sound. So he mistook her to be a bad woman. He said, how long will you be drunk? And Hannah said no.

I am a woman in sorrow. And I am praying to God. And Eli said, God answer your prayer.

And immediately Hannah stood up. And the grief was over. He believed in God.

That God would give her a son. Brothers and sisters, you will find God's ways are higher than man's ways. God's thoughts are higher than God's thoughts.

God moves in a mysterious way. His wonders to perform. But those who are near to Him, He will disclose His mind to them.

So somehow you find when Hannah was praying, and when she prevailed in prayer, God began to show His mind to her. God said, you are asking for a son. But do you know that I have a need too? I am looking for an effort making vessel.

But where could I find him? Are you willing to be the one to bring forth that vessel? I shut up your womb, so that you can bring forth a vessel that is born miraculously. A son that is really given by God. And that son will be the vessel that will change the time.

Thank God, you find Hannah began to understand. Because later on, when you read her prayer, you find she understood. So she was willing to be that vessel, to bring forth a son.

But not for herself. For God's purpose. Dear brothers and sisters, you know this is the way that Samuel was brought forth.

You know this is the way that Samuel was brought into this world. He was not born in the ordinary common way. He was born through a miracle.

He was born by the direct intervention of God. And thus he became the effort making vessel. Now brothers and sisters, let's apply this upon ourselves.

We have already said that God is looking for effort making vessel. We have already said that God is looking for effort making vessel. He can not find it in the endemic race.

Because what is born from the flesh is the flesh. And the natural man can not receive the things of the spirit. Because they are falling to them.

And they do not know the things of the spirit. So in order to raise up such effort making vessel, there has to be a supernatural birth. And how will he bring it about? Thank God.

You find that God first sent his son into this world. And to bear our sins in his own body on the cross. And then you find that out of his side came out blood and water.

Blood to redeem our sins. Water as life, to give us life. So the Bible said, He that is born of the spirit is spirit.

You know one day Nicodemus came to the Lord Jesus. And Nicodemus said, We understand you are a teacher from heaven. In other words, Nicodemus was an old man.

And he was a rabbi. And he was also a person that was looked up to by others. And yet, he was humble enough to come to the Lord.

But he came at night. Because he was afraid of his other Pharisees. And yet he really had a seeking heart.

He came to the Lord Jesus. Wanted to be taught. But our Lord Jesus knew his heart.

So the Lord said, Except a man be born again, He cannot see the kingdom of God. Except a man is born of the water and of spirit, He cannot see, enter into the kingdom of God. In other words, God cannot use the natural man.

So God has to do something supernatural. And thank God today. If anyone believes in the Lord Jesus, He is born again.

He is born from above. He is born of the spirit of God. So dear brothers and sisters, In a sense, All who believe in the Lord Jesus, We have a supernatural birth.

We have two births. One is the natural birth. And one is the supernatural birth.

And because we are brought into this world supernaturally, So in a general sense, All of us are called to be that epoch-making vessel. All of us are called to be that epoch-making vessel. So here you find the foundation is there.

Even before the foundation of the world, God has already chosen you in Christ Jesus. He has already ordained that you will be that vessel. And because of that, He has brought you into that new birth.

So dear brothers and sisters, Do not think that new birth is just something given to you to enjoy. Of course we enjoy that new life. But remember, God has brought us into that new birth.

That He may one day use you as an epoch-making vessel. When Hannah prayed to God, She said, If you will give me a son, I will give it back to you. And there will be no razor upon his head.

Now do you understand what it means? Why is there no razor upon his head? And for life. Because in the book of Numbers, You know in the book of Numbers chapter 6, That whole chapter is devoted to this matter of the vow of the Nazarite. In other words, during those days.

No, because the children of Israel, When God called them to Himself, Do you remember at the foot of Mount Sinai? Do you know at the foot of Mount Sinai? Recorded in Exodus 19, God revealed His mind to His redeemed people. Why did God deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt? Why did He brought them to Himself? Now God said, If you will keep My covenant, If you will keep My commandment, Then I will make you a people to Myself. Out of all the peoples, You will be My own people.

And you will be a nation of priests. That is to say, The whole nation has the privilege of serving God. The whole nation will be a testimony to God.

But unfortunately, You remember how when Moses went to the mountain to receive the law? But unfortunately, When Moses went to the mountain to receive the law? How, at the foot of Mount Sinai, They broke God's commandment. They worshiped a golden cow. And because of this, The nation of Israel was disqualified to serve God.

So finally, you remember Moses? He stood at the door of the camp. Because the camp was defiled. So he stood at the door of the camp.

And he said, Who is on the Lord's side? And out of the twelve tribes of Israel, Only the tribe of Levi stood with Moses. And Moses commanded them To take the sword And go through the camp From one door to the other. And whoever they meet, Just kill them.

Whether it is your brother Or whether it is your neighbor. And you remember that day, Three thousand were killed. And the tribe of Levi Was sanctified.

So God chose the tribe of Levi To serve Him. And out of the tribe, One family, The family of Aaron, To be priests. All the other children of Israel Would not qualify to serve God.

And yet God Opened a back door. And that is the vow of the Nazarites. Anyone in the tribes of Israel, You may not be in the tribe of Levi.

You will disqualify. And during that vow, It could be a vow of thirty days. It could be a vow of sixty days.

Now during the days of the vow, He was a Nazarite. And as a Nazarite, There are three things he couldn't do. One, He couldn't eat or drink Anything that come out of the vine.

No grape, No wine, No vinegar, Nothing out of the vine. Number two, During the days of the vow, No razor could come upon his head. Let the hair grow.

Number three, During the days of the vow, He couldn't approach any dead bodies. Even his father or mother. Because if somebody suddenly dies, By your side, Then, The head of the Nazarite was defiled.

You have to shave it off. And then later on start all over again. Now that is the vow of the Nazarite.

He heard the words, You know God's desire is Everybody will serve Him. But most people have disqualified themselves. But God still opened a door For those who really want to devote their lives to God.

Out of any tribe, Men or women, Young or old, They all have that privilege. But when you are taking that vow, These three things are strictly forbidden. Now, in the Bible, You do have a few Who are Nazarite for life.

A few. Samuel is one of them. John the Baptist is another one.

These are Nazarites for life. That is to say, Their whole life is devoted to God. Now, When we try to bring it to our days, Use the New Testament words.

Brothers and sisters, Do you know that you are born again? That your second birth is supernatural? Because God has chosen you. Even before the foundation of the world. So that's why This supernatural birth happened to you.

Your new birth is for God. Not only for yourself. It is for God.

At the same time, Do you know That you are bought with a price? Do you not know That the blood of God pays At the highest price The blood of his beloved son To buy you To purchase you For himself? By the right of redemption. You are born A Nazarite For life. These are the words.

You have no right To live for yourself. When you are saved You Have been bought With the price. With the blood Of our Lord Jesus.

So you do not belong To yourself anymore. You belong To Christ. Brothers and sisters, By the right of redemption All of us were born again A Nazarite And as a Nazarite For life.

Our whole life Is devoted To Christ. We have no right To live for ourselves. But there is A difference.

In the Old Testament time When Samuel was born He was a Nazarite For life. And thank God He was faithful To that vow Of his mother. You know there is another man In the Old Testament time.

His name is Samson. He was also born To be a Nazarite For life. But how he was unfaithful To his vow.

You remember How he lost His hair And lost his power. He was unfaithful To that vow. So in the New Testament time Brothers and sisters Please notice this.

By the right of redemption We are all born Nazarites For life. And God has every right To claim it from you. God said You are mine.

You have no right To live for yourself. Whether you are willing Or not. You have to serve me.

You have to live for me. God can do that. But God will not do it.

God would rather Persuade us With compassion With mercies With love. God said I have bought you But I let you go free. Unless You feel constrained By my love.

And you want to Do what you are bought for. You know There was a story. In the old days In America You have Slave market.

And one day There was a slave market And a little girl Was for sale. And then people Began to bid For that girl. You know They bought These girls And bought all these boys To be slaves.

And so Of course That girl was weeping. But Out of her tears She tried to Catch a view Of those Who auctioned. And she saw This one And that one.

And all These faces Were terrible. So he felt She was really Hopeless. But suddenly A man came in.

And she bid He bid the highest price. So she got The girl. The girl Didn't dare To look Even at that person.

But then After that man Bought That girl He called For a blacksmith. Ironsmith. Blacksmith.

And asked the blacksmith To take off The feathers. And then He told that girl He said I bought you To set you free. You are now Free to go.

And the man Began to walk away. Now this came So suddenly. So that girl Waited for a while.

And she saw That man was Walking away. So suddenly She ran after him. He said She said I'm willing To be your slave.

Brothers and sisters This is what God Is doing with you And with me. He has every right To claim you. But he will not do it.

He sets you free. That's the reason Why you find Many who are born again Are still living For themselves. Because God Will not force Your will.

God honors Your will. He respects Your will. He wants you To voluntarily Present your bodies A living sacrifice.

You remember Romans chapter 12 Therefore, brethren I beseech you By the mercies of God To present your body A living sacrifice. Wholly acceptable to God Which is your reason Of all your service. Your spiritual worship.

Dear brothers and sisters Does the love of Christ Constrain you? Thinking that He who has died for you You cannot live For yourself. You have to live For the one who died And lived for you. Brothers and sisters We are Nazarites But are we living As Nazarites? Three things Are prohibited.

One Nothing out of the vine. You remember One day our Lord Jesus said I am the true vine. Now, if He is the true vine Then all other vines Are false ones.

You know Why is it Nothing out of the vine? Because all these Represent the pleasures Of the world. They represent The lust of the eyes The lust of the flesh And the pride of life. In other words One who is a Nazarite Is separated from the world.

He will not allow The world to defile him. Love not the world Nor the things of the world. If you love the world The love of the Father Is not in you.

Brothers and sisters Do you know You are a Nazarite? Why are you conformed To the world? Do not be conformed To the world. But be Transformed By the renewing Of your mind To prove What is the good And acceptable And perfect will of God. Number two Here No razor upon your head In other words You are You are not trying To Beautify Yourself.

Do not think of yourself. But Long hair In the scripture Represents Submission Obedience. Do not Try to beautify Your own self.

Because there is nothing Good in you That is in your flesh. But learn To be obedient To God. Number three Never Get close To a dead body.

Even the closest To you. That is to say Our flesh In the sight of God Is like dead body. Because He That minds The flesh Is dead.

The mind of the spirit Is life. So brothers and sisters You find As a Nazarite We are separated From the world. But we We do not try To beautify Ourselves.

To exalt Ourselves. But instead To be under Our Lord As our head. And We Are separated From anything That comes Out of the flesh.

That we May live A life Devoted To our God. Samuel Was born A Nazarite. And he was faithful In his Nazarite life.

And that's the reason Why God Could use him As an effort Making best. Dear brothers and sisters Who are those Whom God can use? Can use To bring in Our king. Those who are faithful As a Nazarite.

Those who are separated From the world. Those who Allow the Lord To be their head. And those Who put their flesh To the cross.

And these Are the people Whom God Could use As effort Making best. So may the Lord Have mercy upon us. Brothers and sisters Do not think That God Only choose a few To be that effort Making best.

Actually God choose All of us. It depends How we respond To God's Election And calling. May the grace From God Come upon all of us.

That we will Offer ourselves To him. That he may Use us To bring in The king. There is no Greater honor Than this praise.

Dear Lord We want to Thank you For saving us. Thou Dost save us For thyself. That thou May use us To Change the time.

Lord we want To thank you Because thou Has Redeemed us And bought us With the price. We are not Our own. Dear Lord May thy love Touch us Deeply.

That we may Give ourselves Over to thee. And learn To live A life Of a Nazarene. That thou Will may be done On earth As it is In heaven.

We ask In the name Of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

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