

**Title:** By the Word of the Lord

**Passage:** 1 Samuel 3:11-21

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Key Truths:

- Willful, continual deliberate sin of rejecting Christ will result in certain judgment equating one as an adversary of God.
- The role of the prophet is not to be choosy as to what we are to share of God's Word but instead take God's Word in whole and relay it to those who are to hear.
- We are to share all of God's Word. Not only of God's love but also of His judgment of sin and people's need for a Savior, which can only be Jesus.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- How may some choose to waver and shrink back in light of these present evil days?
- How may we instead face these days with the conviction and courage?
- How can we grow in living out the truth of God's Word? Is there something the Lord has been prompting you to do?
- James 1:22 admonishes us to be "doers of the Word." What next steps will you take in response to the truths you have been exposed to?

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**Brief Review**

1 Samuel 3

- God's calling of the young prophet Samuel.
  - Common phrase in passage: "the Word of the Lord"

**Context of Passage:**

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

And the LORD called again, “Samuel!” and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.”

### **Passage:**

#### 1 Samuel 3:11-21

Then the LORD said to Samuel, “Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.”

Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” And Eli said, “What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.” So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, “It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him.”

And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD. And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Introduction**

Word of the Lord

- Known through God’s revelation
  - General revelation (creation)
  - Specific revelation (Jesus - the Word made flesh)

#### John 14:8-9

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

God’s Word

- some passages may be more difficult than others.

- But one still can learn aspects of God's character through each passage.

#### Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

#### **EXPOSITION**

##### **1 Samuel 3:11**

***Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.***

*the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle*

- Meaning = the weight of judgment to be given would make not just one ear but both ears to tingle.
  - Sign of impending judgment.

#### Jeremiah 19:3

You shall say, Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.

##### **1 Samuel 3:12**

***On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end.***

God reinforcing His judgment.

- God previously sent a prophet to Eli.

#### 1 Samuel 2:27-28

And there came a man of God to Eli and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, Did I indeed reveal myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt subject to the house of Pharaoh? Did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to go up to my altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? I gave to the house of your father all my offerings by fire from the people of Israel.

- Eli's family history in serving God.

#### 1 Samuel 2:29

Why then do you scorn my sacrifices and my offerings that I commanded for my dwelling, and honor your sons above me by fattening yourselves on the choicest parts of every offering of my people Israel?'

#### 1 Samuel 2:31

Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father's house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.

- God's judgment upon Eli and his family.

**1 Samuel 3:13**

***And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.***

*I am about to punish his house forever*

- God's judgment is clear.

*because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.*

- Eli was clearly implicated with his sons' guilt in their blasphemy as they corruptly served in the Temple.

**1 Samuel 3:14**

***Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever."***

*forever*

- God is a holy God.
  - God's love cannot be separated by His justice.
- Where did God's justice and mercy meet?
  - At the cross.
    - Judgment came on the cross but God gave His only Son to take on that judgment.

**John 3:16**

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**2 Corinthians 5:21**

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever*

- God's rejection of Eli and his sons basis of forgiveness.

**Hebrews 10:26**

For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

- willful, continual deliberate sin of rejecting Christ will result in certain judgment.

### Hebrews 10:27

but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

- such deliberate sin equates such people as adversaries of God.

### 2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test.

- There is no sin that cannot be covered by the cross.
- Yet if you continue to despise Jesus and His way of salvation, then you have chosen God's judgment for you as there is no other way of salvation.

### 1 Samuel 3:15

***Samuel lay until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.***

*Samuel lay until morning;*

- Samuel did not sleep after hearing God's judgment.

*then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD*

- At some point, Samuel got up to do his work.

*And Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli.*

- Samuel understandably was hesitant to tell Eli what God had said.

### 1 Samuel 3:16

***But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." And he said, "Here I am."***

- Samuel had a close relationship with Eli as had served under him.
  - Eli addressed Samuel with endearment ("my son")

### 1 Samuel 3:17

***And Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also if you hide anything from me of all that he told you."***

- How weighty was Samuel's first message as a prophet!
  - Not one of encouragement but one of judgment.
- The role of the prophet is not to be choosy as to what we are to share of God's Word to others.
  - The role of prophet is to take God's Word and relay it to those who are to hear

### James 3:1

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

- Likewise, as we serve for God, we are to share not only what we are comfortable in sharing but instead all that God has said.
  - We serve God well and the hearers well by sharing God's whole message.

### Acts 20:27 (Paul)

for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

- We are to share all of God's Word.
  - Not only of God's love but also of His judgment.

### 2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

What are we to do? Grow in our fear of God.

### Psalms 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

### Proverbs 9:10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

### Acts 5:10-12

Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things. Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

- With accurate fear of God comes sincere response to God.

## Parable of the Soils (Jesus)

### Matthew 13:3-8

And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

- Four types of soil = four types of responses of the heart to God's Word.
- Prayer: make us a heart that is of good soil

### **1 Samuel 3:18**

***So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. And he said, "It is the LORD. Let him do what seems good to him."***

- Eli's best moment: he acknowledged God's judgment and sovereignty.

### **1 Samuel 3:19-21**

***And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the LORD. And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.***

- God's affirmation of His calling of Samuel.

## **APPLICATION**

### Romans 1:21-25

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

- If there is ever a time to hear God's Word, it is now.
  - As the days grow more wicked, the more pressures Christians will face with the surrounding evil intensifying.
- Question: Are you going to waver and shrink back?

- Or instead face these days with the conviction and courage that God provides through the Holy Spirit by continuing to seek Him through His Word?

Isaiah 55:10-11

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- God has given you the opportunity to hear His voice through His Word. Come to Jesus and seek Him.

Hebrews 3:15

As it is said,

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.