

# 'The Rise of the Kings Series'

## Sermons in the Book of 1 Samuel

### Message 6 - 'Faithful Listening' 1 Samuel 3:1 - 21



In this passage in 1 Samuel, we gain insight into Samuel's first experience of hearing and answering God's call, and listening to what God has to say. God in His mercy had prepared Samuel, and even though he was just a boy, God was about to speak His precious Word to Him, and Samuel would listen and obey. As we can see, he was ready to do a number of things:

**1. He Was Ready to Listen (v1-9)** - In the narrative it is clear that the Lord spoke to Samuel four times. The first three saw Samuel approach Eli, as he thought his older mentor was calling him. Even in these first three instances we see a valuable lesson in that Samuel was ready to listen and to respond. In this encounter, God is gracious, full of kindness and gentleness with little Samuel. God does not cast off Samuel when he fails to hear the first time, but God is patient and warm to Samuel, He perseveres. So it is with us, God gives us time to grow in our understanding of Him, and as we still ourselves to listen and learn, He grants us more of Himself. In this context of how He deals with His children, our God is not always the gruff, shouting, sergeant major that some think, but when we need a father's care and patience, His grace allows us such a privilege.

**2. He Was Ready to Obey (v10-14)** - Samuel heeded Eli's advice and returned to his bed to wait for the Lord to call him again. He waited for that voice to come. V10 says that the Lord came and stood near Samuel whilst He spoke to him. The intimacy of that picture is lovely. God is a great God, awesome in so many ways, yet when for His children He comes to them in the way that they need. Let us not be mistaken, despite Samuel being at rest at night, this was no mere dream, this was the real presence of the Lord. Samuel quietly responds with a readiness to listen and to obey. The message that Samuel had been given was certainly a heavy message, especially for a young boy. Yet those God calls He equips.

**3. He Was Ready to Be Humble (v15-18)** - The reaction of Samuel in this matter is a lesson for all leaders, and really for all of us who know and love the Lord. Samuel had just been given a shattering message that would establish him as the voice of the Lord, the foremost spiritual authority in the land. Yet, what is his reaction, one of humility, and an understanding even at his age of the immensity of the task he had been given. I want you to see the burden that Samuel experiences here with God's message, and the pain, pressure, and potential conflict of the Word. Samuel has to speak a message of judgement, and He must because God's truth is at stake.

**4. He Was Ready to Serve (v19-21)** - In this final verses, we are told once again that Samuel grew, but there is a new addition to the development in that the suffix is added, 'the Lord was with him'. The Lord's hand of blessing rested upon Samuel, and unlike the other judges, Samuel would hold together the entire nation. The gravity of the task Samuel was given would have meant that if the Lord was not with him, he would have crumbled. As Samuel was ready to serve the people, so the people recognised that God's hand was upon him. They recognised that God had called him to be His mouthpiece at such a time when the nation needed a strong leader, and that he would declare the word of the Lord and point people to the will of God.



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