

THE SMALL BOY IN THE TEMPLE

I Samuel 2:11–36; 3:1–21.

LESSON 54 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “Many are called, but few are chosen”
(Matthew 22:14).

BIBLE TEXTS

I Samuel 2:11-36

11 And Elkanah went to Ramah to his house. And the child did minister unto the LORD before Eli the priest.

12 Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD.

13 And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a fleshhook of three teeth in his hand;

14 And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the fleshhook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shiloh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

15 Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not

have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

16 And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

17 Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

18 But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with a linen ephod.

19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

20 And Eli blessed Elkanah and his wife, and said, The

LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own home.

21 And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters. And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

24 Nay, my sons; for it is no good report that I hear: ye make the LORD'S people to transgress.

25 If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him? Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the LORD would slay them.

26 And the child Samuel grew on, and was in favour both with the LORD, and also with men.

27 And there came a man of God unto Eli, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Did

I plainly appear unto the house of thy father, when they were in Egypt in Pharaoh's house?

28 And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

29 Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?

30 Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

31 Behold, the days come, that I will cut off thine arm, and the arm of thy father's house, that there shall not be an old man in thine house.

32 And thou shalt see an enemy in my habitation, in all the wealth which God shall give

Israel: and there shall not be an old man in thine house for ever.

33 And the man of thine, whom I shall not cut off from mine altar, shall be to consume thine eyes, and to grieve thine heart: and all the increase of thine house shall die in the flower of their age.

34 And this shall be a sign unto thee, that shall come upon thy two sons, on Hophni and Phinehas; in one day they shall die both of them.

35 And I will raise me up a faithful priest, that shall do

according to that which is in mine heart and in my mind: and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk before mine anointed for ever.

36 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left in thine house shall come and crouch to him for a piece of silver and a morsel of bread, and shall say, Put me, I pray thee, into one of the priests' offices, that I may eat a piece of bread.

1 Samuel 2:1-22

1 And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

2 And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see;

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep;

4 That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I.

5 And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again.

7 Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli,

and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

11 And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against Eli all things which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

14 And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not

be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

15 And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision.

16 Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I.

17 And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide any thing from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

18 And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

19 And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

21 And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

NOTES

Answered Prayer

Samuel was the answer to his mother's prayer. She wanted a son, and God gave her Samuel.

Samuel Given to God

When we promise something to God, we call it a vow; and God expects us to keep our promises or vows. Hannah had promised God that if He would give her a son she would give him back to God. Now she kept her promise. When her boy was still very small she took him to the Temple and left him there to serve the Lord. Perhaps little Samuel helped Eli the priest with the work in the Temple. His mother went up once a year to see him and take him a little coat she had made for him.

God Calls

One night when Samuel was lying down he heard a voice say, "Samuel." He got up and ran to the old man in the Temple, Eli, who was nearly blind. But Eli said he had not called. Samuel went back to bed; but again he heard the voice saying, "Samuel." Again he went to Eli, but was told that Eli had not called him. The third time Samuel came to him, Eli knew that it must be God Who was talking to Samuel, so Eli told him to listen to what the Lord would say to him.

The Sad News

The next time the Voice spoke, Samuel answered, "Speak; for thy servant heareth." God told Samuel that He was not pleased with what Eli had been doing, and God was going to punish him and his family.

In the morning, Samuel arose as usual and opened the doors of their church, the Temple. Eli asked Samuel what God had said to him, and Samuel told him everything that God had said. He said that

God was going to punish Eli and his family because Eli had not punished his sons when he saw their sin.

A Great Man

Samuel loved God, and obeyed Him; and God made him a great and good man, and let him work for God many years. Samuel must have helped many people to be good and to love and obey God.

Little Children

When Jesus was here upon earth He loved little children, and we know that He still loves them. Many times He talks to children; He speaks in their hearts. A child is never too young to learn about Jesus, to love Him, and to be saved. Jesus said, "Of such is the kingdom of God."

HOW OLD OUGHT I TO BE?

"Dear Mother," said a little maid,

"Please whisper it to me –

Before I am a Christian,

How old ought I to be?"

"How old ought you to be, dear child,

Before you can love me?"

"I always loved you, Mother mine,

Since I was tiny wee."

"I love you now and always will,"

The little daughter said,

And on her mother's shoulder laid

Her golden, curly head.

"How old, my girlie, must you be,

Before you trust my care?"

"Oh, Mother dear, I do, I do –

I trust you everywhere."

**“How old ought you to be, my child,
To do the things I say?”
The little girl looked up and said,
“I can do that today.”**

**“Then you can be a Christian, too.
Don’t wait till you are grown.
Tell Jesus now you come to Him,
To be His very own.”**

**Then as the little maid knelt down
And said, “Lord, if I may,
I’d like to be a Christian now.”
He answered. “Yes, TODAY.”
--- *Anonymous.***

QUESTIONS

1. Were Eli’s sons saved? I Samuel 2:12, 17.
2. How often did Samuel’s parents come to the Temple to see him?
I Samuel 2:19.
3. What did Samuel’s mother bring him? I Samuel 2:19.
4. Who called Samuel during the night? I Samuel 3:4.
5. Did Samuel know who called him? I Samuel 3:7.

LESSON RESOURCES

TOPIC

THE SMALL BOY IN THE TEMPLE

Lesson 54

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When Samuel Woke Up

WATCH AND PRAY 137



d: m: m: s: s: d`:-: d: t: l: s: fe: s:-:

s: l: t: d`: l: s:-: s: f: m: r: r: d:-:

d: d: r: m: d: m: f: s:

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When Samuel Woke Up

Hushed was the evening hymn,
The temple courts were dark,
The lamp was burning dim
Before the sacred ark,
When suddenly a voice divine
Rang through the silence of the shrine.

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

