



## Our Response When God Speaks

5<sup>th</sup> in the “God’s King” Series

1 Samuel 3

June 19, 2022

Pastor Greg Lynas

### Introduction

In this passage we get a look at the first time God speaks to his prophet Samuel.

### The Text: 1 Samuel 3

*<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. <sup>3</sup> 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.*

*<sup>4</sup> Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, “Here I am!” <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.” <sup>7</sup> Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.*

*<sup>10</sup> And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant hears.” <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> But Eli called Samuel and said, “Samuel, my son.” And he said, “Here I am.” <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>19</sup> And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. <sup>20</sup> And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established as a prophet of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And the Lord appeared again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the Lord.*

### Some thoughts from this week’s text:

- 1) Sometimes it is difficult to know if we are hearing from God. It’s important to know if it’s his voice we are hearing. (vv. 1-9)
- 2) If we know that God is telling us something, we need a posture ready to receive. (v. 10)
- 3) Sometimes our obedience can mean hard decisions and conversations on our part. (vv. 15-18)

### Response

Let us be in God’s word regularly enough that we are more able to discern how we should live for him.

## Sunday Text Questions

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1. Starter question: What stood out to you most in this passage?
2. Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
3. Why do you think it was significant that v. 1 says the word of the Lord was rare in those days?
4. Verses 4-9 show Samuel being confused as God tries to speak to him. Have you had a time in your life that you feel God was trying to get your attention, but you didn't realize it?
5. Verse 15 says that Samuel was afraid to tell Eli his vision. Talk about why this would have been hard for him?
6. Have you ever had a situation in which being faithful to God required some difficult conversations? Explain.
7. What do you think Eli's response in v. 18 teaches us about Eli?
8. What things can you do to help you better understand God's will for your life?
9. How can Christian community help you in this process?

**Further study this week:** Passages about our response to God's will: Luke 11:28 (Mon); John 16:13 (Tues); Psalm 32:8-9 (Wed); John 14:16-17 (Thurs); Psalm 119:105 (Fri).