LESIONS THIS QUARTER

1) 5 June 2016 1Samuel 1-2 Answered
2) 12 June 1Samuel 3-4 Called
3) 19 June 1Samuel 5-7 Worthy
4) 26 June 1Samuel 8-11 King?
5) 3 July 1Samuel 12-14 Feared
6) 10 July 1Samuel 15 Judged
7) 17 July 1Samuel 16 Anointed
8) 24 July 1Samuel 17 Delivered
9) 31 July 1Samuel 18-21 Faithful
10) 7 August 1Samuel 22-24 Blind
11) 14 August 1Samuel 25 Respect
12) 21 August 1Samuel 26-29 Victory
13) 28 August 1Samuel 30-31

INTRODUCTION

In this passage we see God establishing Samuel as a “confirmed” Prophet

- By their seminary degrees?
- By the number of souls saved, discipled, or counseled?
- By their subjective warm fuzzies, dreams, or visions of the Lord?

Since God now speaks to us by His Son (i.e., His Word) and not by “divers means” (Hebrews 1:1-2), such as by visions, dreams, and angelic visitations, what does a “calling” from God look like these days? Is it objectively verifiable or more subjective in nature?

Does someone need a “calling” from God to go into ministry, or can they just have a desire to go into the ministry?

PASSAGE

1Samuel 3:1-15

Samuel is Called by God

- v1. Direct revelation and visions from God were rare in those days. Similar to what Gideon would echo a few hundred years later, “Where are the miracles of God which our fathers told us about?” Judges 6:13
- If God is the same yesterday, today, forever, why isn't God consistent? Remember...God's character never changes, but He does change His ways in different time periods (dispensationalism) Hebrews 1:1
- Note. Since God creates everybody uniquely with different character, traits, and background, He works with us at our own pace, and He knows how to get our attention
- v2-15. Samuel was around 12 years old, and God “came and stood” before him (a possible Christophany)
- v13. God has no problem letting problems trouble His saints if they fail to deal with known sins in their lives and within their family. The only way to break generational curses (from parents to kids) is to submit humbly to God
- Therefore, be diligent in our walk with God to prevent our kids inheriting our issues (e.g., bad parenting, etc.)
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Eli Acknowledges, and God confirms God’s Call on Samuel

- vv17-18. Eli puts pressure on a young kid to get him to fess up, and Eli perceives the truth of what Samuel received
- Should we manipulate or pressure people to give us what we want, when we want it?
- When is it appropriate to pressure people? Never |
- To prevent sin | To get money out of them |
- To other
- vv19-21. What God calls, God takes responsibility. In Samuel’s case (as well as for all of God’s prophets), God did not let any prophecies go unfulfilled
- What would be the ramifications if even one prophecy fails?

God Relinquishes His Attachment on His Possessions

- vv1-8. Israel saw God and the Ark as a lucky rabbit’s foot
- What is most precious to God? God’s Holy name? The heart of His people? Temple and artifacts?
- “Remember Shiloh” – God used the capture of the Ark, and eventually, the destruction of Shiloh, God’s temporary temple compound, to get His people to repent in Jeremiah’s day or else God would destroy them along with Solomon’s Temple. But they didn’t, so He did....Jer 7:12-15
- God eventually destroyed and removed Israel from their promised land for the sake of His holy name....Ezek 20:44

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Being “called” into ministry TODAY is somewhat subjective as people seemingly observe God’s hand moving behind the scenes to guide their career path rather than receiving direct revelation. While OT prophets, prophetesses, kings, and judges, and NT Apostles had more objective evidence to validate their calling
- BUT, God gives every Christian specific callings or appointments, and these are objectively verifiable as assuredly as Christ is raised from the dead, and here are just a few of our specific callings:
  - Acts 13:48 We are appointed/called to eternal life
  - Romans 1:7 We are called to be saints
  - 1Corinthians 7:15 We are called to peace
  - Galatians 1:6 We are each called by the grace of Christ
  - Galatians 5:13 We are called to freedom
  - 2Timothy 1:9 We are called with a holy calling
  - 1Peter 2:20-21 We are called to suffer for Christ
  - 1Peter 3:9 We are called to inherit blessings

Other appointments/callings (e.g., Pastors) are more subjective:
- 1Cor 12:28 God has appointed/called in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers (i.e., Pastors/Elders). Note: Apostles and prophets have ceased (else the word of God would still be growing beyond the current 66 books of the Bible).
- 1Timothy 3:1 If a man desires the office of a bishop/pastor/elder, he desires a good work (Note. No specific calling here)
- Also, churches (often through the Holy Spirit) can call people to fill certain positions, such as for Pastors, Deacons, and missionaries....

- Acts 13:2
- Acts 6. The church chose (called) certain honest men, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom the Apostles appointed to serve the weaker members (widows) within the body

NEXT WEEK: 1Samuel 5-7. In this passage, we will see the Ark captured by the Philistines, then it is returned after some misfortunes, & the Philistines are eventually defeated as Samuel makes a sacrifice to the Lord and the Lord responds favorably with bad weather. How do we secure the Lord’s favor today to defeat our enemies, break addictions, and restore health, wealth, and relationships?

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson

Your sons are Dead as a Door Nail? The Ark going Gone. Really Frank. whoopsie

Breaking the news to Eli of his sons deaths, and the Ark stolen. I Sam 4:18. You have gone better. I Sam 5:19

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