

The Call of God

Jan. 13, 2008 (AM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

1 Samuel 3:1-18

I. THE SUPERIOR POSITION OF GOD, verses 1-3

A. Samuel Given To The Lord, 1:24-28

B. Samuel Served The Lord As Lord, 2:18-19

C. Some Things Are Precious

1. Word of God, 1 Sam 3:1
2. Blood of Christ, 1 Pet. 1:19
3. Christ Himself, 1 Pet 2:7
4. Our Faith, 2 et. 1:1
5. God's Promises, 2 Pet. 1:4

D. God Must Be Superior

1. Before anyone can receive a special calling of God, he must realize the superiority of God, that God is Almighty, and we are his servants
2. We should all seek to be his servants and to be ready to answer a call from him.

II. THE SPECIAL CALL OF GOD, verse 4

A. Samuel's Special Call

1. Samuel heard the actual voice of God, which had not been heard in many years in Israel.
2. Thus, Samuel thought it was Eli who was calling him.
3. Today we do not hear God in an audible, physical voice; but we hear him in a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12).
4. When God acts upon your heart and calls you to a special work of the Lord, you will know. Just ask anyone who has been called of the Lord, and he will tell you that the call was not in a loud voice, but God's calling was always understood and clear.

B. Samuel's Hesitant Answer

1. Since no one was living who had heard the Lord speak out loud, Samuel did not know that God would call him for special service.
2. Also, Long had Eli and his sons neglected to bring to the attention of the young men of Israel that God may call them to a special work.
3. I want you to know today that God does call people in our day, and I want young men and women to answer that call.
4. Don't expect God to call through a phone or over the FM radio waves, but do be reminded that God does call people for his service.
5. Samuel hesitated because of his ignorance, but today you have no excuse to hesitate upon God's call. The call will not be loud, but it will be clear.
6. Always keep your spiritual ears keen to the calling of God. God may call you to be a missionary, a pastor, a teacher, a deacon, or just a faithful member of your church.

7. Whatever that call is, do not hesitate to answer.

III. THE SIMPLE MESSAGE OF GOD, verses 10-14

A. The Lord's Message To Samuel

1. In verse 10 Samuel answered the Lord, "Speak, for thy servant heareth."
2. The message that God gave to Samuel was one that no one would want to hear. "I will do a thing in Israel at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle." (Vs.11)
3. God told Samuel that he would judge Eli for his sin. He would not discipline his sons, who were very sinful, and because of this God will judge Israel.
4. This sin cannot be purged with sacrifice or offering forever. God's judgment was sure against Eli and Israel.
5. This was the negative message that God called Samuel to give to Eli and to Israel.

B. The Lord's Message To Preachers Today

1. Samuel was a prophet in the truest sense of the word. Preachers today are prophets in the sense that we tell forth the words that God has put in the scriptures whether they be positive or negative.
2. People may not like the message of God, but they must hear it nonetheless.
3. A God-called preacher who is designated as a pastor or full-time worker for a church must give himself completely to the study of God's word – Acts 6:4 *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*
4. It was not Samuel's job to build up a large congregation or to organize parties and entertainment sessions. It was Samuel's job to give a specific message to the people of Israel.
5. If God call any of you boys to preach, he expects you to give your time to Bible study and prayer. This is hard work, but it is a great privilege.

C. The Challenge of Preaching

1. Jer 5:12 They have belied the LORD, and said, [It is] not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine:
2. Jeremiah's message was clear, but some of the prophets lied about God's message Jer. 5:11 *For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the LORD. 12 They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine:*

IV. THE SENSIBLE SURRENDER TO GOD, vs 16-18

A. Eli's Request, vs 16-17

1. Eli asked Samuel to reveal everything that God had said to him; and although Samuel did not relish the idea of telling Eli the negative news, he told him every whit.
2. It is an honorable thing to want to know what God says whether it be positive or negative.
3. Do you want to know what God really says, or do you want to know just the positive things? Are you willing to hear God's challenges to you as well as his blessings?
4. Ps 139:23 *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

5. Is this what you want in your life? This is what Eli wanted, because he knew that he had sinned against God. I would that every believer wanted this for their lives.
- B. Eli's Resignation, vs 18
1. Notice how Eli, the priest of God, surrendered to God's will.
 2. *And he said, it is the LORD; let him do what seemeth hm good.*
 3. What a resignation! What a surrender! What great love he had for the Lord even though he knew he had sinned and that God was going to bring judgment upon him.
 4. Even though we sin, God can judge us according to that sin, and we will lose rewards in heaven; but we who are believers always know that God is merciful and kind, longsuffering. His judgments are true and precious to the believer, because we have heard his voice.
 5. Will you surrender to God's will today?
 6. Young men, older men, will you listen to the call of God? Will you listen to that still, small voice and surrender to his will? Is he calling you to be a prophet? Is he calling you to surrender your life wholly to him?
 7. We have too long served the world; now we need to serve the Lord. Psalm 27:4 *One [thing] have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*