

Judgement and Deliverance

This week – We continue our series on how God blesses those who exercise faith in Him.

**The LORD called, “Samuel, Samuel.”
Samuel answered, “Speak, LORD;
for Thy servant heareth.”** *1 Samuel 3 vs4,9*

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	1 Samuel 1v1-18 (Hannah prays to the LORD)	
Monday	1 Samuel 1v19-29, 2v1-5 (Hannah’s prayer answered)	
Tuesday	1 Samuel 3v1-21 (Samuel faithfully answers God’s call)	
Wednesday	Exodus 3v1-22 (Moses faithfully answers God’s call)	
Thursday	John 10v1-18 (‘My sheep hear My voice’)	
Friday	2 Timothy 1v1-14 (God’s call to Timothy)	
Saturday	2 Timothy 3v14-17, 4v1-8 (From a child)	

Important Thought for us Today: Do I know the Lord as Samuel did? Samuel was well liked and did all that Eli asked of him; obedient and willing, always in the house of God; and yet it was not until the Lord personally called him and he responded in repentance and faith did Samuel know the Lord as his Saviour. The same is true of us. Birth, church attendance or family connection cannot save us. Each of us must have a personal Christian testimony that tells of how the Lord dealt with us and how we responded individually. The method of conversion is always the same, whether Samuel, us or anyone else; we need to recognise that we are needy sinners condemned in God’s holy sight. We can only be forgiven and made right with God because He sent His Perfect Son, Jesus Christ, to take the eternal punishment that we deserve on Calvary’s Cross. **Have you heard God’s call to repentance?**

So, please prayerfully and honestly ask - Do I truly know the Lord? Is this my experience?

Hymn 546 - seeking a humble and obedient heart just like Samuel had:

3 O give me Samuel's ear! The open ear, O Lord, Alive and quick to hear Each whisper of Thy Word; Like him to answer at Thy call, And to obey Thee first of all.	4 O give me Samuel's heart! A lowly heart that waits Where in Thy house Thou art, Or watches at Thy gates, By day and night, a heart that still Moves at the breathing of Thy will.
---	--

Samuel Hears and Answers God’s Call.

- **Hannah was childless and asked God in faith for a son.**
 - ‘O Lord of Hosts, remember me, give me a child, and I will give him to Thee.’
 - God heard her prayer, instructing Eli, the Priest, to tell her ‘Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of Him.’ *1 Samuel 1v17.*
- **God answered her prayer; Samuel was born to Hannah and Elkanah.**
 - Hannah kept her vow to give her son to the Lord, to serve in The Tabernacle.
- **Samuel grew up ‘in favour with the LORD and with men’**
 - In contrast to Eli’s evil sons, Samuel obediently, willingly and respectfully looked after God’s Word; (then in Scroll form comprising the 5 books of Moses)
 - Despite his good behaviour, “Samuel did not yet know the Lord” *1 Samuel 3v7.*
- **God’s call to Samuel was audible (heard).**
 - At night God called ‘Samuel, Samuel’, three times; Samuel thought it was Eli.
 - On the third time Eli realised it was the LORD calling Samuel. *1 Samuel 3v9.*
- **God’s call is not audible today but will be ‘heard’ when we: -**
 - Begin to really understand Gospel Truth – A Saviour has died to save sinners.
 - Believe that He died to save me - taking the guilt of all my sin upon Himself.
 - Are ashamed of how offensive our sin is – we want to be forgiven by God.
 - Repent - believing this message is for me. God loves me so much. *John 3v16.*

This is personal. Have we ‘heard’ God calling us? Is our conscience being pricked?

- **We must answer God’s Gracious Call as Samuel did.**
 - Follow Eli’s advice to Samuel - respond, ‘Speak LORD, for Thy servant heareth.’
 - ‘Speak LORD’ – Recognising that God’s Truth is of vital importance to our souls.
 - ‘Thy Servant heareth’ – With humbled souls, prepared to listen and obey, pray with the following elements in our prayer: -
- ‘Dear LORD, I believe what the Bible teaches about me and my sin. I believe that the Lord Jesus loves me and came from Heaven to die in my place, as my substitute. Lord, I ask You to forgive me all my sin, receive me, and give me a new heart to love You. From now onwards I promise to live in obedience to Thy commands, and to serve Thee as Thy willing servant.’*
- **Samuel was tested to prove that he did know God. Do we pass the test?**
 - Samuel’s new faith was tested - God asked him to tell Eli that the priesthood was removed from him and his family. Samuel obeyed telling God’s words to Eli in love.
 - The Lord asks us to speak of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ to others, to turn away from this world’s evil attractions, to put Him first in everything we do, to read and prayerfully obey His Word, to sing His praise, and serve Him. **Have we done this?**

We too must, like Samuel and Timothy, “Continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of Whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
2 Timothy 3v14-15.