

Here I Am

“Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him” (1 Samuel 3:7).

Samuel’s mother, Hannah, had dedicated him to a life of service to the Lord, *“... then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head (1 Sam 1:11).* Such a vow, though very commendable, did not in itself establish Samuel as a child of God but God tested him to prove whether he loved the Lord above all things. God tests all people.

God called to Samuel three times and each time Samuel misidentified the call of God for that of Eli the high priest. Perhaps there have been times in our lives when we do not recognize God’s call or conversely times when we convince ourselves that our choice in life was a call from God when it came about merely through our own pride. As previously mentioned, these calls from God did not mean that Samuel was a child of God for clearly he *“did not yet know the Lord”*. Note that it took the intervention of Eli to point to the Lord before Samuel could understand who was calling him. Likewise, we too need the intervention of other believers to point the way.

Samuel’s test came when he had to speak the truth, as given by God, to Eli. Imagine how difficult this had to be seeing that Eli had been his spiritual guide for almost his entire young life. Samuel knew no other authority figure. He fully trusted in Eli and now he had words that would seemingly be of no comfort to him. None of us want to alienate others, especially those whom we love and respect, *“... And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision” (1 Sam 3:15).* Yet Samuel placed the Lord first and relayed God’s full message to Eli. Surprisingly, Eli

appreciated the message from the Lord, *“... 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 (1 Sam 3:18).* Although Eli was the high priest of the Lord, we can see by his reaction that he did not hold himself above the Lord; he accepted that he had strayed from the truth and did not become indignant when told so.

After being tested of God, Samuel went on to grow in grace, *“And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground (1 Sam 3:19).* In not letting his words “fall to the ground”, Samuel illustrated that he held back nothing of what God revealed to him. How often do we hold back the truth in fear that it may cause some adverse reaction in the listener? Perhaps we might lose a friend, as Samuel was concerned, or our church may lose congregants if a word is spoken from the Lord that does not tickle the ear. Samuel could have become prideful in his accomplishments but scripture points out that it was not he who recognized God’s will but that it was the believers who recognized that God was using him, *“And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD” (1 Sam 3:20).* Of a truth, it is not what we see in ourselves that counts but what others see of God in us.

God’s Peace,

Charles Korhonen

July 3	Visiting Finland minister	7pm, translated, coffee following service
July 5	Ken Storm	Holy Communion
July 12	To be announced	
July 19	Ken Storm	Medical Care 2pm
July 26	Jesse Mattson	

Looking Ahead

There will be a special service for the confirmation class.
Date to be announced.

Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'on the air' during our church services. Previous sermons will be published to as well. Use the chat feature if there are problems listening to the service.

Summer Schedule

Sunday Service 10:00am.
Wednesday night Bible Study 7pm

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

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