

Answering the Call of God

“Then Eli called Samuel, and said, Samuel, my son. And he answered, Here am I”, 1 Samuel 3:16.

This first act of Samuel as a prophet was recognized by Eli as having come from God. This was the beginning of Samuel's public ministry as prophet, which would last through a lifetime and be recognized by all the people as a divine calling.

They quote Napoleon Bonaparte as saying “A leader is a dealer in hope”. Yet he was an utterly ruthless man, a dictator, who later in his career thought he could do no wrong.

The Apostle Paul states, “There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. . . Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good”, 1 Corinthians 12:4, 7.

Both have a type of magnetism, one from a man, the other from God. There was only ever one that could be right.

Samuel is viewed as the last of the Hebrew Judges and the first of the major prophets who began to prophesy inside the Land of Israel, he was, therefore, used by God as the medium to bring about the monarchy climaxing with the birth of David.

Dedicated to the Lord by his mother before her conception, he became the man whom God could trust. That Samuel was a prophet for God is borne out in the fact that everything he prophesied came to pass.

His introduction into a life working for God is quite remarkable, for with God's first two calls to him, Samuel responded to Eli. On God's third call, Samuel answered as directed by Eli with the statement “Here I am”, responding as an obedient servant.

The message although short, is direct, and to the point. We are told that Samuel remained in his bed until the morning. It is quite easy to understand that Samuel would not be in a rush to deliver a message such as this.

Yet notice his actions on this, his first day as a called prophet of God.

As a person under training, Samuel would have been up early each morning to open the doors of the tabernacle.

On this morning, Samuel displays a trait that excels obedience. Raised to the office of a prophet, he showed great humility, by completing his

tasks.

That he should do so at other times was an instance of extraordinary towardliness in a child, but that he should do so this morning was an instance of great humility. God had highly honoured him above all the children of his people, yet he was not proud of the honour, nor puffed up with it, did not think himself too great and too good to be employed in these mean and servile offices, but, as cheerfully as ever, went and opened the doors of the tabernacle.

It also gave him the chance to compose himself that he should not offend his guardian.

Three things are manifested here,

1. Eli knew was well aware that was possibly a Word from God concerning him, and that he should know the message, and not remain ignorant of God's message
2. Samuel's forthright delivery of the message.
3. Eli's immediate acceptance of Samuel's integrity.

We, then, should never argue with God, but strive to be as obedient as Samuel.