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HERE I AM, LORD

LESSON 6 – Samuel the Prophet

Then GOD called out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did. GOD called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am." Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.) GOD called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am." That's when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed. Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

1. How many times did God call to Samuel? _____
2. Why didn't Samuel know that God was calling him? _____

Samuel was dedicated to the Lord and taken to the temple to be raised by the High Priest Eli. If she took him when he was about three, he could have been 9 or 10 years old when he heard the Lord.

3. Think back. When you were 9 or 10, what were you being exposed to in your home?

4. Samuel lived in the temple. What was he being exposed to?

- 1 Sam. 2:12 _____
- 1 Sam. 2:17 _____
- 1 Sam. 2:22 _____
- 1 Sam. 3:8 _____

5. What does it mean to "dedicate" your child to the Lord?
 - ___ Give him/her to the Lord to do His will in the child's life.
 - ___ Take the child to the church and leave him/her there.
 - ___ Mother & father agree that they need help raising this child.

My parents were not Christians when I was young; they did not dedicate me to God nor did they know how. I saw anger, selfishness, violence, vulgar language; I felt loneliness, abandonment, fear, and no purpose.

Psalms 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Jeremiah 1:4-5 God said, "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you; before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Psalm 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. For I was born a sinner— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. I've been out of step with you for a long time, in the wrong since before I was born.

IN ORDER FOR SAMUEL TO LIVE FOR GOD, HE NEEDED TO BECOME A BELIEVER IN GOD. THAT HAPPENED IN THE TEMPLE WHEN HE SAID, "SPEAK, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING." IN OTHER WORDS, "HERE I AM, LORD." (send me, use me, teach me, correct me, hold me tight - I am scared)

6. From the verses above, can you agree with God that:

- a. Ps. 139 ___I agree ___ I can't yet God did a great job creating me.
- b. Jer. 1 ___I agree ___ I can't yet God has a purpose for me.
- c. Ps. 51 ___I agree ___ I can't yet Without God, sin will keep tripping me up.

7. Even when you continually ignore God, remember what Jonah 3:1 says. Write it down.

I believe there is urgency; there is a time when God wants to get our attention because there are serious and important events ahead. Notice the following ways God called to certain of His people:

Genesis 22:11 ABRAHAM, ABRAHAM

Luke 10:41 MARTHA, MARTHA

Exodus 3:4 MOSES, MOSES

1 Sam. 3:10 SAMUEL, SAMUEL

Acts 9:4 SAUL, SAUL

Luke 22:31 SIMON, SIMON

EVERYONE OF THESE PEOPLE LISTED ABOVE SAID, "HERE I AM, LORD - I AM LISTENING."

PERSON CALLED	VERSES	RESPONSE	WHAT GOD WANTS
Abraham, Abraham	Genesis 22:1,11	Here I am	Offer your future to Me
Ananias, Ananias	Acts 9:10	Here I am, Lord	Become part of My plan
Jacob, Jacob	Genesis 31:11;	Here I am	Don't settle for anything but My best
Martha, Martha	Luke 10:41	Lord, I didn't know you cared.	Don't get distracted
Moses, Moses	Exodus 3:4	Here I am	Honor my holiness
Samuel, Samuel	1 Sam. 3:4-9,10	Speak Lord, your servant is listening	Keep listening to Me
Saul, Saul	Acts 9:4	Who are You, Lord? What want me to do	Use your gifts & talents for Me.
Simon, Simon	Luke 22:31	You know I like You, Lord	Help others in weakness

8. This whole world expects results from our actions. However, God is looking for results in our hearts, not results in the world.

Pick two from the list above and tell how their inner lives grew by saying. "Here I am, Lord"

Person #1 _____

Person #2 _____

1 Sam,16:7 The LORD told Samuel, "Don't look at his appearance or his height,^[a] for I've rejected him. Truly, God does not focus on what man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart."