

Sermon Notes

“When God Breaks His Silence”

1 Samuel 2:11 – 4:1

July 2, 2017

- b. Eli’s question in 1 Sam. 2:25 highlights a great need everyone ultimately faces. How does the description of Christ in 1 Tim. 2:5 answer Eli’s question?
- c. Although it could be argued that Samuel or Zadok (1 Kings 2:26-27, 35) fulfilled the prediction of a coming “faithful priest” (1 Sam. 2:35), its highest fulfillment comes in Jesus Christ. Consider how the following texts qualify Jesus (Heb. 2:17; John 8:28; Ps. 89:4, 33-37).

Let's Pray:

Conclusion:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 7-2-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 23-26; Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, pp. 39, 49; Explore the Bible, QuickSource Leader Guide, Vol. 4, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 11-14;

Getting Started:

1. In today's text, God is at work in the quiet life of a young boy growing up in the background of scandalous public sin by the religious leadership of the day. Have you learned to look for God's work in quiet ways, or are you always needing to see him in the dramatic or the noisy?

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Sam. 2:22-25.
 - a. Some people interpret v. 25 as though the cause and effect were interchanged, as though it read: "it was the LORD's will to put them to death, *for (or because)* they did not listen to their Father's rebuke." How is that wording different in meaning than that of the text?

- b. Read Romans 1:18-32. Note that the misconduct of mankind is not only evidence of their depravity, but Paul says it also reveals the "wrath of God" (1:18) as he "gave them over" (three times, 1:24, 26, 28) to their lusts, passions, and depravity. Hophni and Phinehas illustrate that "Someone can remain so firm in his rebellion that God will confirm him in it, so much so that he will remain utterly deaf to and unmoved by any warnings of judgment or pleas for repentance" (Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Blain, Glasgow, England, 2014, p. 34). Given this instruction, how would you explain why repentance is so urgent?

3. Read 1 Sam. 3:11-18.

- a. Why was Samuel afraid to share the message with Eli? How can fear hinder us from doing God's will? What occasions has serving the Lord demanded that you act with courage?

- b. How did Eli respond to this new prophet's message? Was this a good response or a mediocre response? That is, how do you think God wanted Eli to respond to his warnings in 2:27-36 and 3:11-14?

4. Consider the pointers toward Christ in this text.

- a. Compare the description of Samuel (1 Sam. 2:26) to Jesus (Luke 2:52).