

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

1 Samuel 3:1-20

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

You have searched me out & known me. (v1)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings & benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, & follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- 1 Samuel 3:1-20

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ...^{3b}Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" & he said, "Here I am!"⁵and ran to Eli, & said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went & lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up & went to Eli, & said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, & the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. & he got up & went to Eli, & said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; & if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went & lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the LORD came & stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" & Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end." ...¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel & said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am."¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. ...¹⁸So Samuel told him everything & hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him & let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Review *1 Samuel 2:12-17, 36* for the context of the bad news in *vv13-14, 17-18*. How does this initial truthfulness & trustworthiness establish what *v20* states? See *Proverbs 13:17; Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 16:10-12, 19:11-27; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2*
2. "From Dan to Beersheba" (*v20; cf. Judges 20:1*) means "from one end of the land to the other" while the word translated here as "knew" means to be confirmed or established & is the origin of the English word "amen." What makes it a fitting closing to our prayers? See *Small Catechism: Lord's Prayer**

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Considering #1 (*cf. Psalm 32:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:31-32; 1 John 1:9*), where in everyday life are you sandbagging, withholding, or covering-up what God made known to you about his purposes for your life? What steps do you need to take to become more trustworthy of his Word, mysteries, & gifts?
4. Eli is judged & condemned for failing to intervene in his sons' evil. (He is in authority over them as head priest, not merely as their father.) Where are you turning a blind eye toward sinfulness by those under your authority/supervision/control? See *Numbers 15:30-31; Ezekiel 33:1-9; Large Catechism: 8th Commandment. *SC, LC available bookofconcord.org*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Christians all learn that the church is truly the people, not the building (*1 Corinthians 3:9, 16-17, 6:16-19; Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Peter 2:5; cf. 1 Kings 5:17-18, 6:7*). How do you show & tell your pre-Christian friends that you & your congregation are built together?
6. Building on #5, who in your life were you built on in faithfulness? Who is being built on you in faithfulness? What can you do to see that more living stones are firmly built on your servant leadership?

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Second Sunday after Epiphany

01.14.24

Series: God's Grandeur

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

The Holy Spirit at Work in our Lives

Our Bodies

The Holy Spirit dwells in our bodies like living Temples

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Now the LORD came & stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" & Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (v10)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

We have found the Messiah: Jesus Christ,
who brings us grace & truth. (*John 1:41, 17*)

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