



# *And All Israel Knew...*

*Children's Lesson by Mrs. Eva Kotrlova*

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Good morning, children. This morning I am going to talk to you from I Samuel three. It is a chapter that every one of you knows. It talks about little Samuel, who was ministering in the temple with Eli unto the Lord. In this story, God spoke to Samuel for the very first time. It was night time and Samuel was asleep when suddenly, he heard someone calling him, "Samuel, Samuel." He thought it was Eli, the priest. Immediately, he jumped up. He must have been quite drowsy; just imagine somebody waking you up from your sleep in the middle of the night. Yet,

he jumped up and came to Eli saying, "Here am I." Eli was surprised and said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." This went on for a while until Eli finally got an understanding that it was God calling Samuel. So he advised Samuel what to do when he heard the voice again. He told him to say, *Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth* (I Samuel 3:9).

Samuel obeyed Eli. When the Lord called him for the fourth time, "Samuel, Samuel," he said exactly what Eli advised him to say. Then, God spoke to him a word for Eli. It was the same

word that was spoken to Eli before in chapter two through another man of God. It talked about destruction of Eli's house, because they didn't obey God and lived in sin. Again, God reminded Eli, "Because you knew all the evil your sons did, yet didn't do anything about it, I will bring judgment upon your house."

I wonder what must have been going on in Samuel's mind when he heard it. You know, he came into the temple and did all the things with Eli. Eli was a very important person for Samuel. Eli was the priest; Samuel loved him and was helping him. But suddenly, God told Samuel very unpleasant things about Eli. In particular, God told him that Eli had

iniquity in his life which he didn't do anything about and because of that the judgment would come upon him. It must have been quite difficult for a boy like Samuel to hear it. Have you ever wondered what Samuel must have thought?

After God spoke to Samuel, Samuel went to bed. It says that he slept until the morning. Eli knew that God had spoken to Samuel in the night and so he went to him right away in the morning. He asked him, "Samuel, tell me,

what did God speak to you last night? You mustn't hide anything from me."

I imagine Samuel standing there and taking a deep breath, knowing he had to tell Eli everything. He didn't dare to hide anything. Do you think it was easy for Samuel to tell it to Eli? He had to say, "God told me that you have iniquity in your life and because of that He will bring judgment on your house; bad things will happen in your life." I think it must have been very hard for Samuel to tell Eli all these things.

Do you remember what Eli answered Samuel after he heard the bad news? He said, *It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good* (I Samuel 3:18). Eli didn't do anything with the word of the Lord; he didn't repent.

He left it as it was and said, "Well, it is the Lord; whatever He wants, let it be." He didn't go to God, he didn't repent, he didn't call upon God so that God would save him; he didn't make it right with his sin.

I retold you this story even though I believe you all know it. However, when I was reading it, I was thinking, "God, what is it that I am to talk about? The children know all of this. They know that You can talk to small children as You talked to Samuel. Sometimes You

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even give them uneasy messages that they are to deliver.” Can you imagine coming to an adult and telling him things like Samuel told Eli? When I was reading it this time, I stopped at the first verse of chapter 3. It says, *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.* The fact that there was no open vision means that the prophets were not bringing forth many words at that time in Israel; there was no vision, as if God didn’t speak.

I realized that every time I had read the story before, I thought Samuel was actually ministering in the temple unto Eli. I thought he was there with Eli, Eli was teaching him everything pertaining to the work in the temple and Samuel was helping him. But reading it this time I realized that Samuel was not ministering unto Eli, he was ministering unto the Lord. The Lord sent Samuel to the temple so that He would teach him and train him there. I believe that Samuel’s mother, Hannah, knew it very well. She knew that when she sent Samuel into the temple, he would learn to serve the Lord.

I have noticed one thing in this

story: Samuel had a great respect for Eli. You can see it in several things. First, when Samuel heard the voice in the night, he immediately obeyed and ran to Eli. He did it because the priest Eli was calling him; Eli was important to him. Does it ever happen to you that an adult person is calling you and you pretend that you don’t hear them? But Samuel didn’t behave like this, he had respect within himself. Immediately, when he heard the voice, he jumped up and ran.

The second thing I noticed is that when Samuel heard what God had to say about Eli, all those bad things, he was afraid to tell Eli. You know, I realized that sometimes, when we know something

bad about somebody else, we are very bold to tell them. “You are terrible. You do this and that.” Do we sometimes do that? An example is how we sometimes behave at home. We talk unhesitatingly. You may be right. Your brother or sister may have done something that is not good. But we should have respect one towards another as little Samuel had. When we learn something about somebody who is doing something wrong, we should not approach him proudly and haughtily.

*Samuel had a great respect for Eli. He did not despise Eli for what he knew about him.*

Samuel could have gotten puffed up and said, "That Eli! I am serving here in the temple with him and he behaves like this!! I didn't realize he would do this! And God told me!" He could have run out of his bed, gone to Eli and told him, "God has told me something! Now I know it about you! You are wrong!" Since that moment, he could have had his nose up high and thought proudly, "That Eli!"

Children, I found out that an attitude of disrespect sometimes comes upon us. For example, you have an older friend and find out that they are doing something wrong. Immediately you begin to despise the person in your heart. Or, it may happen to you towards your parents.

Do you think your parents are perfect and they are doing everything right? No, they aren't. Sometimes they yell at you and it is not nice. Or, sometimes they are not nice towards each other. At that moment you can say, "Well, what parents I have! Should I obey them when they behave like this?" Then, you tell them, "Mom, why are you telling me this? You are yelling at me so why are you telling me that I should not do this!"

I realized that this is very wrong. You

know, the fact is that Samuel came to the temple, but he didn't minister unto Eli, he ministered unto the Lord. Even though God has not given you to go to the temple and do the things that were done there, you are at home in your family; you are helping your mommy and daddy and learning many things. I believe that God wants you to realize that you are not there so much to minister unto your parents, but you are there because God placed you there to minister unto Him.

And so even though you may sometimes see that your mommy or daddy don't do something well, it is very important to keep your respect towards them. You have to know that it was God Who has given you your mommy and daddy

and that it is necessary to have respect and not be arrogant towards them.

You can see in I Samuel three that Samuel had respect. Do you know what happened to him later in the same chapter? It is written that he *grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground* (I Samuel 3:19). It means that everything Samuel prophesied and said came to pass. Then, it says in verse 20, *And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to*

*God placed you  
in your home not  
to minister unto  
your parents but  
unto Him.*

*be a prophet of the LORD.*

I believe this is what God wants to give us. He wants us to grow and learn to minister unto the Lord in our family. Then, all the people will see it when we are respectful towards our parents. And it's not only about our parents; even in the fellowship there might be somebody who is an elder and I can learn from them. But I may learn that they didn't do something well or that they may have a problem with something. Yet, I cannot despise them in my heart, because if I do, I will pay for it and miss the glory that God prepared for me.

You know, Eli's sons were also in the temple. They did terrible things there and little Samuel saw it all. He saw how they were robbing people; he knew that Eli was not dealing with it. Yet, he kept his heart clean and God trained him, because he believed the Lord placed him there. He knew it. I believe that his mother talked to him about it. She told him to have respect towards the priest Eli and towards the Lord. She taught him about it. She taught him what God is like and Samuel received it in his heart. Therefore, even though there were people around him who did unrighteousness, God brought him

through that environment, was able to make a prophet out of him and all other people knew that he was a faithful servant of the Lord.

Children, I wanted to encourage you so that you would not despise anybody, so that you would not despise those who are older than you when you see an error with them. You know, sometimes we have a tendency to think, "He is so old, he shouldn't do such bad things!" It may happen even to us adults. We may see an older servant and say, "He shouldn't be doing this any more!" and despise him in our heart. But when we do that, a door closes for us in our heart and we are not able to draw what God is giving us through that person. Then, our

growth in God is stopped and we don't fulfill that which God has called us to.

So remember this one thing: even though Samuel learned something bad about Eli, he kept respect in his heart towards him. The same way that when you see somebody doing something bad, even though he is a servant of God, keep the respect so that God could bless you. Because if you despise the person, you will miss what God has prepared for you.

May the Lord bless you. Amen.

*Do not despise anybody no matter what you know about them but respect them.*