

Devotional Blog

1 Samuel 3:1-10

This week I would like to share the story from the old Testament, 1 Samuel 3:1-20. A young boy called Samuel who was in the service of the Lord under his mentor, the Prophet Eli. Eli was old. His eyes were deteriorated and he could barely see.

One day, Eli was asleep. Samuel was also sleeping in the temple of the Lord. The Lord called 'Samuel' and he answered 'I'm coming.' So he ran to Eli and said, "here I am, you called me."

Eli said, "no, I didn't call you. Go back to sleep." So Samuel went back to sleep. Again, the Lord called the second time, "Samuel". Samuel rose and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, you called me".

Then Eli understood that the Lord was calling the boy. Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down. If you are called again say, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." And Samuel went back to his place.

Afterwards, the Lord came, and stood there. He called the third time, 'Samuel, Samuel' And Samuel followed Eli's instruction and answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Well, you may be intrigued to know what God said to Samuel, the boy?

Living in these unprecedented times, life is exceedingly difficult, full of fear and loneliness. It would be a delight to hear God's voice speaking directly to us and give us a revelation to fix the pandemic, thus bring us back to 'normality'!

I want to affirm that God does speak to us. He has not stop calling us, each one of us. But so often, our ignorance hinders us to understand who is calling. Like Samuel, he was innocent and inexperienced, he thought he was called by his mentor Eli. Whereas Eli, though he was almost blind, realised that it was the Lord, thus instructed Samuel what to do.

Eli and Samuel have shown us that listening to God's voice is a collective act. Without Eli's wisdom and experience, Samuel would not have recognised the calling from God and his revelation. Without the young Samuel, the old Eli who lost his prophetic vision wouldn't have known God was doing new things for the nation.

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And the most important is, they both loved and trusted each other, so that they had a humble heart to listen and learn from each other. That brought them in one accord and set out a vision that brings healing power.

No doubt that God is doing new things to heal our nation, showing us new acts of love and kindness; and He's building up a stronger community to watch over one another.

Do you hear God's call? Do you have someone like Eli or Samuel who helps you hear God's call that will transform your life for His purpose?

Let us pray:

Lord God, we may have felt that we are living in the dark during our current situation. May you send your people who will help us hear your call in love and trust: to rediscover our precious identity and purpose through a relationship with Jesus Christ. And together, we see and act out the purpose of our life that bring light into darkness, through the power of the Holy Spirit in Jesus Christ. Amen.