

Lesson 174: Walking with Jesus – Part 6 (Commandment: Honor your Father and Mother)

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1-3

Memory verse: Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right (Eph. 6:1)

Remember the story of Samuel? He obeyed His parents in the LORD. Samuel's father, Elkannah, was a faithful follower of God. Every year, Elkannah would take his family to Shiloh to worship and sacrifice to the Lord. Elkannah did this to show his love and dedication to God!

For many years, Samuel's mother, Hannah, could not have children. But she prayed fervently for a child, and promised to give her firstborn son to God's service for all of his life. God granted Hannah's request, and true to her promise, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord. When Samuel was still a young child, his parents brought him to the tabernacle to serve under Eli the priest. From that time forward, Samuel's natural parents visited every year when they came to worship and sacrifice, but the rest of the time, he was raised by Eli the Priest. The Bible tells us that during that time, Samuel continued to grow in stature **and in favor with the Lord** and with men.

During the time Samuel was growing up, prophecies and visions were rare. But one night, Samuel heard someone calling him, he thought it was Eli, but it was not, it was God! Three times Samuel heard his name called and he got out of bed and went to Eli. The first two times, Eli simply told Samuel that he had not called him. The third time, Eli understood what was happening and instructed Samuel to respond to the Lord by saying, 'Speak, for your servant is listening,' if he called again. God did call Samuel a fourth time, and Samuel responded to God as Eli had instructed. God gave Samuel a message of judgment to give to Eli; God said that Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were wicked, and did not follow God's ways, and because of their wickedness, God promised that He would remove Eli's evil sons as priests would raise up a faithful priest and not allow Eli's sons to continue as Priests. God chose to use Samuel who was obedient to his parents and to God.

The life of Samuel was critical in Israel's history and he did many notable things. He was a prophet, he anointed the first two kings of Israel, and he was the last in the line of Israel's judges, considered by many as the greatest judge (Acts 13:20). Samuel, like Moses and Aaron, was a man of faith who called on God and *was answered!* (Psalm 99:6). He and Moses are known as two of Israel's greatest prayer warriors (Jeremiah 15:1). It all began with parents who taught him about God's ways (per Deuteronomy 6) and Samuel's commitment to **obeying** the good things about God that were taught to him by his parents!

Many years later, when the Apostle Paul – another man who obeyed his parents, and obeyed God's ways – wrote to the people of Ephesians, "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right," he was not teaching them a new command, but instead affirming God's 5th commandment to honor one's parents that had been given to Moses on mount Sinai and lived out by people like Samuel and Paul.

- Obedience means to do as one is told.
- Honor means to respect and love.
- Parents should care gently for their children even when they are disobedient and unpleasant.
- Children should honor and obey their parents even when they're being demanding or unfair.
- Both should try to submit to one another by putting their interests above their own, living unselfishly.

WHY does God give this command?

- Practicing obedience in our home helps us learn the discipline of obeying our Heavenly Father.
- If we obey only when things are going well, then we're living selfishly and on our own terms. We are called as Christians to live like Jesus, responding in love to others even when they're not being kind to us.