

## **Scripture Lesson for January 17, 2021 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Introduction to the Hebrew Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

Elkanah and Hannah wished to have a family of God-loving children. Of their three children Samuel was the most committed to God and so they allowed Samuel to live in the household of Eli, who had a bunch of “scoundrels” for sons. Eli was a deeply spiritual man and took Samuel in as a student. Listen to a reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel:

### **A Reading from 1 Samuel 3:1-10**

**3** <sup>1-3</sup> The boy Samuel was serving GOD under Eli’s direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of GOD, where the Chest of God rested.

<sup>4-5</sup> Then GOD called out, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Yes? I’m here.” Then he ran to Eli saying, “I heard you call. Here I am.” Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” And so, he did.

<sup>6-7</sup> GOD called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, “I heard you call. Here I am.”

Again, Eli said, “Son, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.)

<sup>8-9</sup> GOD called again, “Samuel!”—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, “Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am.”

That’s when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So, Eli directed Samuel, “Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, GOD. I’m your servant, ready to listen.’” Samuel returned to his bed.

<sup>10</sup> Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, “Samuel! Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Speak. I’m your servant, ready to listen.”

## **Introduction: The Gospel Lesson John 1:43-51**

After a brief introduction in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of John, Jesus calls his first disciples, Andrew and Peter. After this, Jesus goes to Galilee, seeking other disciples. Listen to how this calling story unwinds.

## **Gospel Lesson: John 1:43-51**

<sup>43-44</sup> The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, "Come, follow me." (Philip's hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.) <sup>45-46</sup> Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, "We've found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It's *Jesus*, Joseph's son, the one from Nazareth!" Nathanael said, "Nazareth? You've got to be kidding." But Philip said, "Come, see for yourself."

<sup>47</sup> When Jesus saw him coming, he said, "There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body." <sup>48</sup> Nathanael said, "Where did you get that idea? You don't know me." Jesus answered, "One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree." <sup>49</sup> Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!"

<sup>50-51</sup> Jesus said, "You've become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! Before this is over, you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again."