

Guided Meditation
on
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-4:1

Let us go away – long ago and far away – and join young Samuel on the night he was called by God.

We are in the Temple. It is night. Eli is asleep. No one else is around.

What do you hear? Are there crickets chirping? Is the wind rustling? Can you hear the old man Eli snoring lightly in the background?

Is it cold on the stone floor of the Temple? Is the cold a welcome relief after the heat of the day?

If you look around, what do you see through the dark? There are oil lamps flickering, reminding you that you are in the presence of God. How does it make you feel to be here – all alone in this place, just you with the young boy Samuel and the old man Eli, alone in this place with God? Are you anxious? Are you comfortable? What is going on deep in your heart?

Witness the scene as Samuel jumps up and runs to Eli. Hear Eli jump up with a start –
“What is it? What’s wrong, boy? Is everything all right?” “You called me, sir; here I am.”
“I didn’t call you boy; go back to sleep.”

Watch it happen again. Eli is right; you see that he didn’t call the boy. If not him, then who? No one else is here but you, Eli and the boy – and God.

Watch it happen a third time. You know what is happening now; and so too – finally – does Eli. GOD is calling. God himself. He has something special in mind for this child. He has a plan for him. He is calling him by name. Can you sense the awe of Eli and young Samuel? Can you feel their excitement? Their wonder. Their trust in the plan God must have in mind.

Now allow yourself to take Samuel’s place. It is YOU lying there on the cool stone floor of the Temple. You and Eli. No one else but you and Eli ... and God.

God calls you. But you don’t know it is God calling. What in your life do you THINK it is that is calling out to you; beckoning you; demanding your attention; taking up your time, even rousing you from sleep? Who is it that you think has a plan for you; who promises you happiness; who asks for your trust?

You go to the one you Think is calling you – not Eli, but to a career, a goal, a love one, an image ... but you discover that’s not what is calling you. Can you remember a time that you discovered that you were clearly in the wrong place, answering the wrong call that you thought would bring you happiness?...

YOU hear the call again as you listen closer this time, you know it’s the voice of God calling you forth. God who leads you into the peace and happiness that you desire. How do you feel as God calls you by name? What is it that you want to say to God tonight? What is it that God is asking of you?...