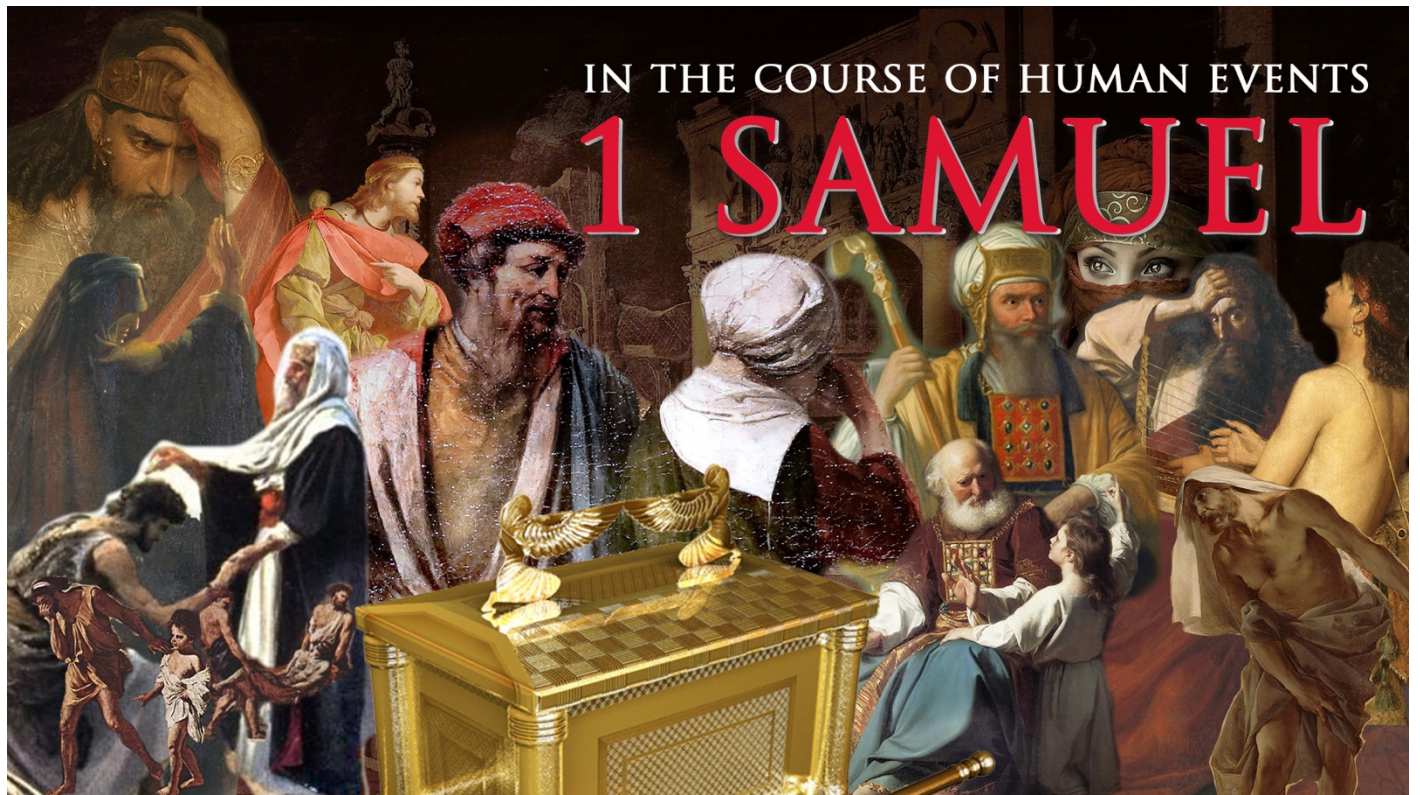


1 Samuel 3

God Calls All the Wrong People

The Big Idea

Throughout the Scriptures God calls “unqualified” people to rise to the occasion. It is God’s presence, combined with the gifts God places within the individual, that results in an incredible result. How is God calling you into ministry today?



In 1 Samuel 3, YHWH calls a boy, Samuel, to become a prophet *and* priest. On the one hand Samuel was just a boy, entrusted with speaking truth to power, God’s intent to cut off Eli’s (corrupt) family line from the priesthood. On the other hand, Samuel was not from the line of Levi (the traditional family of priests). Why do you think God placed such a great burden on such a young person?

Can you think of other examples of young people who became a powerful voice against corruption in the world and/or entrusted with important leadership roles beyond their years and experience?

Here are some other accounts of God's call to "unqualified" people.

Exodus 4:10-15

Isaiah 6:1-5

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Jonah 1:1-3

What other biblical characters can you name who, on the surface, seem unqualified? Here's a video to get you thinking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj6mVUnY3e4&t=95s>

Have you ever felt unqualified, but rose to the occasion?

There is an old saying that "God calls the unqualified. God qualifies the called." How does this take shape in the call of the Apostle Paul?

Why do you think that God consistently calls flawed, imperfect people to such high callings?

What do you think God may be calling you to do today?

Break into groups of 3 or 4 and discuss past callings and present or future directions God may be calling you toward. Take about 10 minutes to discuss. Report your discoveries back to the group.

Closing prayer: "A Prayer that Anyone Can Pray" by Thomas Merton

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."