

1 Samuel 3:7-9

(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.) And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Today's devotional verses are referring to the prophet Samuel, who grew up in the temple. As our story here goes, this was when Samuel was just a young boy, and he was taught how to "serve" in the temple, and I use that one word (serve) which is very important, because we tend to teach our kids how to be servants and how to serve others and serve in the church, which are good things. But as you read the very beginning of today's verses it says that:

† *(Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.)*

Samuel was taught how to serve in the temple, yet he was never taught how to have that close relationship with the Lord. Sure, he heard the names LORD, Yahweh, Jehovah ... But Samuel did not really know the LORD, he just knew about Him and how to serve Him, but when the LORD spoke to Samuel, he did not know that it was the LORD GOD who was calling out to him, and since Samuel did not know the Lord's voice, all he knew was his teacher and mentors voice, who was Eli.

After Samuel went to Eli three times that night, Eli finally realized what was going on, and that the Lord was speaking, or calling out to Samuel, so he started to teach Samuel how to respond to the Lord and how to start having a relationship with the Lord beyond the serving part..

† *Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.*

And as you read on, you find out that the Lord did call out to Samuel again, and Samuel responded like Eli said he should, and the Lord spoke to Samuel that night, which started a whole new relationship between the Lord and Samuel. One that was beyond the "do for the Lord" relationship that so may hear from the pulpit, other Christians, and in other teachings.

But once again, it is great to do for the Lord and to serve in the church and outside of the church. But what if all you did was work your job to provide for your family, but had no relationship with your family outside of that with no eating meals with them, no talking to them etc... the

relationship would be non-existent, and that's what happens when we get so caught up in doing and serving, but not spending any, or very little time with the Lord.

So, if you are serving keep serving, and if you are not serving, it's time for you to get off your pew and start serving, but remember what Jesus told Martha, who was so busy serving, and had no time for the Lord, and to Mary, her sister, who took the time to stop serving to spend time with her Savior; ***"And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word." "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."***

† ***Micah 6:6-8 With what shall I come before the LORD, And bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?***

† ***Luke 10:38-42 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."***