



Imagine sitting down with your girlfriend's dad to ask for his daughter's hand in marriage.

You're nervous. Sweat gathers on your forehead. You make small talk, but finally manage to get the question out while your voice cracks.

The dad responds, "Sure! But you'll have to jump over some cows first."

If you're a man living in the Hamar tribe of Ethiopia, this is exactly what you'd have to go through before you can get hitched. To become a man, you'll have to jump over a herd of cattle.

People have very different ideas of what it means to transition into adulthood - into maturity. In the passage of Scripture we will examine tonight, we will see a boy turn into a man. He went from being a boy to a prophet. He matured not only physically, but also spiritually. He grew up! He went from being a young boy to one who was a respected spokesperson for God. As I read through this passage, I notice several responses of Samuel that indicate growth. Tonight, we are going to focus on his responses to God's Word. He was a young man that valued the Word of the Lord. You must be a young person who values the Word of God. Ok, so how do you show that you value the Word of God? Your responses will be an indicator. How do you respond to the Word of God?

I. A person who values the Word of God listens to those who direct him to it.

Eli helped Samuel understand and told him to obey the Word of the Lord. He directed Samuel toward God and His Word.

II. A person who values the Word of God responds to it with a spirit of humility.

A. Samuel put himself where the Lord had spoken to him previously. Do you purposely put yourself under the teaching of God's Word? Not just in church or school or a Bible study, but personally?

B. Samuel put himself where the Lord could use him in the future. He desired to be a servant of the Lord. He approached the Word of God with a willingness to do whatever He asked. He said, "Speak; for thy servant heareth."

III. A person who values the Word of God responds to it by speaking the truth.

A. Samuel told Eli of the coming judgment.

There are times where we have to say hard things to those that we care about.

B. Samuel saw Eli submit to the Lord's wisdom.

Eli said, "It is the Lord: let him do what seemeth him good."

You must be a young person who values the Word of God. Have you seen evidence in your life of a priority for the Word of God in your heart? Do you respond the way that Samuel did to the Word of the Lord? How do you respond when others direct you to the Word of God? Do you roll your eyes? Do you pretend to listen, but on the inside, you can't wait to get out of there. Do you respond to the Word of God with humility? Do you approach it with an attitude of service? "Lord, whatever you say in your Word, I will do." Do you respond to truth by speaking it into the lives of others? Is the Word of the Lord precious in your mind? I'll tell you this, as it was rare in the day of Samuel, it is still rare in our culture today that someone values the Word of God this way. The Word of God must be your final say.