

SERMON-BASED STUDY: YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING

1 Samuel 3:1-11a, ESV – Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD in the presence of Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ² At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was.

⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵ and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down.

⁶ And the LORD called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ And the LORD came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears." ¹¹ Then the LORD said to Samuel,

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 What does it look like when the Word of the Lord is rare in our lives? What does it look like when the Word of the Lord is present on a regular basis?

2 Do you relate more with Eli (distant from God) or with Samuel (closeness with God)? Explain.

3 If God called your name, would you answer like Eli, “Your servant is listening” or would it be something like, “Your servant is busy.” Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER

A **1 Kings 19:9-13a, ESV** – ⁹ There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰ He said, “I have been very jealous for the LORD, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.” ¹¹ And he said, “Go out and stand on the mount before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. ¹² And after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. ¹³ And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

4 Looking at the passage above, how did Elijah position himself to hear from God? Prior to this passage, what was Elijah doing?

5 What was it about Elijah’s positioning that allowed him to hear from God?

6 What lessons can we learn from Elijah and Samuel about placing ourselves in a position to hear God? Practically speaking, what would have to change for you to be in a position to hear from God?

B **Psalms 78:1, ESV** – ¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth!

Psalms 1:1-2, ESV – Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ² but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

7 What does it mean to “give ear” and “incline your ears”?

8 Looking at Psalm 1:1-2, how would you describe the posture and attitude of someone who is listening to God?

9 Why is it important to have the right posture and attitude when listening to God? How can we get ourselves into the correct posture?

TAKING IT HOME

When looking at Samuel, we see he positioned himself close to God, regularly served God, listened for His voice, responded eagerly, obeyed God, and studied God's Word. How are you doing with positioning and posturing yourself to hear God's voice? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you become better at hearing God's voice.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 46:10

Colossians 3:15