

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Sermon Title: Hearing and Understanding the Voice of God

Humans were created to experience a conversational relationship with God.

God's voice in Jesus

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

"Hearing God's voice isn't a skill we must master therefore as a master we must meet"
Pete Grieg

God's voice in The Word

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on **every word that comes from the mouth of God.**'"

Matthew 4:4

For,

"All people are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
25 **but the word of the Lord endures forever.**"

And this is the word that was preached to you.

1 Peter 1:124-25

God's voice in the Whisper

After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came **a gentle whisper.**¹³ When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

1 Kings 19:12-13

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the Lord called, “Samuel!” And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, “Here I am; you called me.”

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!”

Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

¹¹ And the Lord said to Samuel: “See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. ¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. ¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. ¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, ‘The guilt of Eli’s house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.’”

¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, ¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, “Samuel, my son.”

Samuel answered, “Here I am.”

¹⁷ “What was it he said to you?” Eli asked. “Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you.” ¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, “He is the Lord; let him do what is good in his eyes.”

¹⁹ The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel’s words fall to the ground. ²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the Lord. ²¹ The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

1 Samuel 3:1-21

Hearing God is first & foremost a response to God speaking not the product of a desire for a more supernatural experience.

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Hearing God well is slow journey of deep discovery.

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Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Healthy community helps us hear & understand God’s voice in the whisper.

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Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, “Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Beware of the other voices in your life

Be aware of the type of voice you are in someone else’s life.

A humble & attentive posture helps us hear & understand God’s voice in the whisper.

¹⁰ The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

Beware of only seeking God’s voice in crisis.

God’s voice in The Whisper is confirmed by God’s voice in The Word.

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If God is speaking to you for someone else handle with caution, courage, & care.

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Practices so you don’t M.I.S.S. the voice of God in your life

1) Minimize distractions to maximize attentiveness.

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
Luke 5:16

2) Immerse yourself in the word of God.

And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.
1 Samuel 2:26

The Lord continued to appear at Shiloh, and there he revealed himself to Samuel through his word.

1 Samuel 3:21

3) Serve faithfully as you're seeking.

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli

1 Samuel 3:1

4) Stay the course.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13