

## The Life and Times of Samuel

### Part 2 - Hearing the Voice of God

#### 1 Samuel 3:1-21

#### At the David's life - what stood out to him as most important?

Killing of Goliath? Leading the Army? Great victories?

Serving as King for over 30 years? Great sins - adultery, murder?

#### 2 Samuel 23:1 - the final words of David

***"The Spirit of the LORD speaks through me; his words are upon my tongue. The God of Israel spoke. The Rock of Israel said to me... 2 Samuel 23:2-3a***

He was most moved that God has spoken to him and through him.

#### God spoke to the boy Samuel

#### 1 Samuel 3:1-21

##### A. The Situation

1. Messages from the Lord were very rare
2. Samuel watched the lamp of God in Tabernacle (burnt all night)

##### B. The Call of God

1. Clear - enough to wake him
2. Personal - God called him by name (as He always does)
3. Persistent - God continued to call until he understood

##### C. His reaction

1. Immediate
2. Obedient
3. Open to hear - ***"your servant is listening"***

##### D. The Message

1. The devastation of sin - ***"He did not rebuke them"***
2. The judgement of God

##### E. The results

1. God continued to speak with Samuel (and reveal Himself)
2. God fulfilled His Words - not one failed
3. All knew Samuel to be a prophet of God

#### Lessons we should learn

1. The power of sin is devastating - Eli and his sons died
2. The power of prayer is overcoming - Samuel is answer of God
3. God speaks to old (Eli) and young (Samuel) 12 years old
4. Just being around religion is not enough
5. It is possible to hear God but not understand

## 3 Burning Questions

### 1. Does God really speak to men today?

He began in the Garden of Eden, spoke to Moses, the prophets of OT  
He spoke through His Son ***Hebrews 1:1-2*** \ Jesus was the Word and spoke the Word of God

Peter and the Apostles including Paul heard God ***2 Peter 1:18-***

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would speak His words to us

***John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.*** The answer is yes!

### 2. How do we know the "Voice of God"?

**We have thoughts and feelings from more than one source**

Ourselves - a way that seems right ***Proverbs 14:12, 16:25***

Satan - Jesus rebuked Peter speaking - Satan - ***Matthew 16:23***

God - Audible or otherwise - clear

**We do not always recognize His voice -**

***1 Kings 19:11-13***

***So How?***

#### a. Judge by what we are sure of - scripture

God will never contradict His Word - God does not lie ***Titus 1:2***

#### b. Look for confirmation

God almost always confirms His Word by repetition

Also through other believers, situations, peace

God never rushes us

#### c. Determine ahead to obey His voice

***John 17:7***

### 3. How can I hear from God?

#### a. Be sure you belong to Him

***John 10:27***

#### b. Believe God wants to speak with you

***John 14:26***

#### c. Position your heart to hear

Cultivate an awareness of God

***Hebrews 11:6***

Confess any sin that hinders your hearing.

#### d. Learn to listen

Jesus said ***"Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."***

Study His Word to recognize His heart

***1 Kings 3:9***

#### e. Spend time with Him

Listen in prayer till you know His voice clearly

**PLAN AHEAD - Weekend Retreat September 20- October 1**  
**Watch for details and sign-up sheet soon!**