

**Title:** Speak, Lord, Your Servant is Listening

**Passage:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10

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Key Truths:

- God's purposes never stops despite the circumstances.
- We must treasure the Word of God in our Bible. We must teach our children precious truths of God.
- Are you continually listening for God? We can become so busy with the work of the Lord to not take time for the Lord of the work.

Application:

*Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.*

- Listen intentionally (Speak)
- Listen obediently (Lord)
- Listen purposefully (for)
- Listen personally (your)
- Listen humbly (servant)
- Listen continually (is)
- Listen carefully (listening)

Possible Discussion Questions:

- What point(s) in the sermon did the Lord most impress upon you?
- What makes it hard for us to be good listeners?
- What has the Word of God revealed about your own thoughts and attitudes of the heart?
- How have you experienced freedom by doing the Word of God?
- How can you use the Bible in your own spiritual growth this week?

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**Introduction**

**Context of Passage**

Samuel

1 Samuel 1:11 (Hannah, Samuel's mother)

And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head."

- Samuel was subsequently born.

1 Samuel 1:24

And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young.

- Hannah brought her child to the Lord to the temple.

#### 1 Samuel 1:26-28

And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

#### 1 Samuel 2:18a

Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy clothed with a linen ephod.

#### 1 Samuel 2:21b

And the boy Samuel grew in the presence of the LORD.

### **Passage:**

#### 1 Samuel 3:1-10

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.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 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.

Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" 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.

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." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

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. 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.

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

### **EXPOSITION**

#### **Introduction**

The Word of the Lord

- Repeated from Genesis to Revelation

#### Genesis 1:3

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

- From creation through all the ages, God's Word is the key and focus of true life.

#### Psalms 1

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; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

- very first Psalm points to the great value of God's Word.

Psalm 119

- each verse points to the Word of the Lord.

Psalms 119:9

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.

Psalms 119:11

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Psalms 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalms 119:103

How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

- the great value of God's Word is clear.

Matthew 4:4

But [Jesus] answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- Story: a man lifting up a Bible said "This is my life."
  - Do we similarly appreciate and affirm God's Word in our lives?
    - Otherwise, we miss what God intends in blessing us.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Luke 24:25-26

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?"

- All of God's Word points to Jesus. It is all about Him.

Isaiah 40:8

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

### Hebrews 1:1-2a

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son...

### John 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

### Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

### **Key Point:**

If there was ever a time of our nation that needs to turn to God's Word, it is now.

### Romans 1:28

And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.

- our present world is lost.

### Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

- No matter how far gone we are, God's Word will still stand and work.

### Isaiah 14:24

The LORD of hosts has sworn:

"As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand,

### Isaiah 55:10-11

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

### **1 Samuel 3:1**

***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.***

*Now the boy*

- Jewish historians suppose that Samuel was about the age of 12-13.

***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.*

- Context of passage
  - It was rare for the people to hear from God because of their many sins.

#### Judges 21:25

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

- spiritual darkness was a sign of judgment for the people rejecting God.

#### Amos 8:12

They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it.

Question: Do we truly treasure the Word of God?

- It is living and real and active.

#### James 1:22-25

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

#### Deuteronomy 6:7-9

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

- we must diligently teach our children through God's Word.
  - Otherwise, we leave our children to the darkness of this world.
- Give them Christ in His Word.

#### **1 Samuel 3:2-3**

***At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. 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.***

*At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see,*

- Despite his position as priest, Samuel had lack of zeal and discernment though he was in God's temple.

*was lying down in his own place*

- Lack of interest in hearing from the Lord.

- Lackadaisical attitude and perception towards fulfilling what God had intended for him in service.

*The lamp of God had not yet gone out,*

- lamp in God's Temple.
- God's purposes never goes out despite man's circumstances.

### **1 Samuel 3:4-5**

***Then the LORD called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" 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.***

- The silence of the Lord has finally been broken.

### **Romans 10:17**

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

### **1 Samuel 3:6-7**

***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." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.***

- Note: one can be in the presence of God's people and even in His temple yet have not truly had a personal relationship with God.
  - Samuel was doing what he was called to do and being diligent.
    - Yet Samuel did not yet know God.
- Danger in ministry:
  - We can become so busy with the work of the Lord to not take time for the Lord of the work.
- Question: Are you continually listening for God?

### **Matthew 7:21-23**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'"

- Do we place an emphasis on our serving to spending time with our Savior?

### **1 Samuel 3:8**

***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.***

- Note: Samuel's lack of prior self-perception and reflection that he failed to grasp that God was speaking to a boy rather than himself.
- Likewise, appreciate the value of discipling and praying for the younger generations who rise up to speak faithfully through God's Word.

### 1 Samuel 3:9-10

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

- Final third time where Samuel responds directly to God.
- The result?
  - Samuel receives a unique Word of God that radically changes him and those around him.

### 1 Samuel 3:11

Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am about to do a thing in Israel at which the two ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.

### **Application**

*Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.*

- may this be a prayer of your heart.

How?

*Speak*

- Listen intentionally
  - Truly want to hear God speak to you rooted in His Word and never contrary to it.
  - Hear from the one true God.
    - The utmost important source is God Himself.

*Lord*

- Listen obediently.
  - Lord: recognize God has Lord

### James 1:5-7

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

- When seek God, one cannot pick and choose what to follow. One must submit oneself wholeheartedly under God's lordship.

*for*

- Listen purposefully
  - Not randomly but rather with reason and purpose.

*your*

- Listen personally
  - Not listen for others but rather for yourself.

*servant*

- Listen humbly
  - A servant understand his or her place.
  - Listen with the heart of a servant.

*is*

- Listen continually.
  - Not “was” in the past
    - but listen always in the present.
  - At every moment.

*listening*

- Listen carefully
  - Not half-heartedly.

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.