

Remnant Life Church
January 28, 2024
Hearing, Obeying, Living
I Samuel 3:1-21

Three primary voices vying for your attention – in addition to the countless sources of noise that we are inundated with every day:

1. Your voice
2. The voice of the Lord
3. The voice of the enemy

This morning lets look at an example of hearing God’s voice from the OT

- But not just hearing but also obeying
- Then what God did through this man’s life in building the nation of Israel, His people

READ – I Samuel 3:1-21

By way of context:

- The books of I and II Samuel were written by Samuel with additions contributed by the prophets Gad and Nathan – both of whom served during the reign of David
- The books were written and read as one book until, because of its length, it was made into 2 books when it was translated into Greek for the Septuagint.
 - The same is also true of I and II Kings as well as I and II Chronicles
 - The Septuagint was the first translation into Greek from the original Hebrew
 - The next major step in the translation of the Scripture was into Latin known as the Vulgate
 - That translation was completed over the course of approximately 22 years by the 4th-century European priest and theologian Jerome
 - It was after this took place that the Bible began to be made available to all people in all languages – including English
- The two primary purposes of the books of Samuel were to document the establishment of the monarchy of Israel and to chronicle the life and rising kingship of David
 - It begins by telling of the historical transition of the nation
 - It chronicles the progression from the leadership of the priest Eli to the prophet Samuel to the first king Saul to the line of David
 - God promised David a ruling dynasty comprised of his family lineage
 - But the book of Samuel also establishes the principle of obedience to God’s Word as the necessary condition to see it continue

Let’s consider a few of the verses Miles read for us this morning to better understand the importance of his life:

I Sam 1:1a – *The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli.*

- The Bible does not give us the exact age of Samuel when the Lord called Him
 - It calls him a “boy” – original language: *nah-ar*

- This describes either a male or female child from infancy to age 19
- It must be noted that Samuel was serving the Lord during this time in the temple, NOT Eli
 - What I love the most about this simple first part of the verse is that we see God places no age restrictions on who He will call and who He will work through

I Sam 1:1b – *In those days, the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.*

- Some have interpreted this to mean that the people were unable to hear God
- In reality, this is a part of God’s judgment on the people for their sins
 - They were still in the dark days of idolatry, having become involved in the worship of other gods
 - Second, the priestly leadership (to use the word loosely) was polluted because of Eli’s two sons, who had corrupted their duties through sinful actions
- With just those two points, how easy is it to see this country in that same place?
 - As a people, this culture worships everything BUT God!
 - Money, fame, possessions, job, appearance, relationships, you could still name others
 - And then, where is the church in these times?
 - Are we crying out for righteousness to be restored?
 - Or are we caving in to what the world says is right or wrong and continuing to ignore the Word of God
 - This is what Israel was doing, and this is what we are doing
 - Should there be any question why signs, wonders, and miracles are so scarce today?
 - And when they do happen, few believe because too many have been manipulated and faked in order to gain financial increase
- Not only was the Word of God rare, but there were very few visions
 - What is the need to mention that?
 - Why would that be important?
 - Because without them, a people, a society is in grave danger
 - Look at what God’s Word tells us
 - **Numb 12:6** - *When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.*
 - When visions occur, God Himself is speaking to the person or the people
 - **Joel 2:28** - *...I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.*
 - In the last days visions will be on the increase
 - **Prov 29:18** - *Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom’s instruction.*
 - In the original language, the word revelation used here in Proverbs is the same as visions that we read in **I Sam 3:1**
 - Without the visions, the Words from God, the people did what was right in their own eyes (**Judges 21:25**)

Here we have a young boy who is chosen by God (in a similar way that God chose a young girl to be the mother of Jesus) who shows us what must take place when hearing God's voice speaking into our lives

1. An Attentive Ear (I Sam 3:1-9)

- a. As we read through the first 9 verses, we see that Samuel answered each time he was called
- b. He accomplished this by being in a quiet place without the distractions of others or the ways of the world
 - i. He was lying down near the Ark of the Covenant
 - ii. That was a place within the Tabernacle that was guarded and secluded
 - iii. Samuel heard the voice of God because he was in a place where he could hear it
 - iv. What would it take for you to be in a place where you know you would hear the voice of God?

2. An Obedient Will (I Sam 3:10-14)

- a. It is not enough to only hear God's voice; you must obey it
 - i. Moses was an example of how NOT to respond to God's call
 1. You may be thinking I said that wrong
 2. I mean, after all, not Moses!
 - ii. As we all know, Moses was called to lead the people out of slavery
 1. God spoke to him through a bush that appeared to be burning but was not being consumed – a supernatural act
 2. But Moses was not anxious to fulfill what God had for him to do
 3. In **Genesis 3-4** we read of four excuses Moses presented to God as to why he could not or should not do what God was telling him to do
 4. And for each excuse, God had a response that reminded Moses of the fact that God was going with Him and would provide all he needed
- b. An obedient will is the bedrock of a relationship with God
 - i. Moses was about to die on his journey to Egypt from Midian (**Ex 4:24**)
 1. Why? Because he had not performed the act of circumcision on his son
 2. This was in direct violation of God's command through His covenant with Abraham (**Gen 17**)
 - ii. Obedience to God's Word is how we experience the fullness of God's blessing in our lives
 1. If you are not following God's Word in your life, why do you expect Him to bless you?
 2. If you are not obeying His Word with regard to your finances, why do you ask Him to bless you?
 3. If you are not fully surrendered to Him in all areas of your life, why do you cry out to Him when your life is out of control?
 - iii. Is this to say that God does not love you?

1. Not at all, but He is faithful and true to all things, including His own law
2. The word obey appears for the first time in the Bible in the account of Abraham being told by God to sacrifice Isaac
 - a. **Gen 22:17-18** - *I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*
 - b. **Lev 18:4** - *You must obey my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God.*
 - i. This edict from God to His people still holds true for us, His people, today
 - ii. If God was ready to take Moses' life for his disobedience what makes you think we are not held to that same level of accountability?
 - c. Do not test God!
 - d. God and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever (**Heb 13:8**)