

Remnant Life Church
February 4, 2024
Hearing, Obeying, Living
Part 2
I Samuel 3:1-21

I Sam 3:1a – *The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli.*

I Sam 3:1b – *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 that word loosely) was polluted because of Eli’s two sons, who had corrupted their duties through sinful actions
- With just those two points, it is easy to see that this country is in the 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 by those who have their eyes set on financial gain and social influence

We began last week to examine four qualities demonstrated by Samuel that we need to utilize today to, not only hear the voice of God leading us, but obey His words through our actions.

1. An Attentive Ear (I Sam 3:1-9)
 - a. As we read through the first 9 verses, we see that Samuel answered each of the 3 times he was called by God
 - 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. Samuel heard the voice of God because he was in a place where he could hear it
 - iii. What would it take for you to be in a place where you know you could 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
- ii. As we all know, Moses was called to lead the people out of slavery
 - 1. 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
 - 2. 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. That applied to even someone like Moses
 - 1. We read, strangely enough that God was about to take Moses' life on his journey to Egypt from Midian (**Ex 4:24**)
 - 2. Why? Because he had not performed the act of circumcision on his son
 - 3. 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 and it continues through both the old and new testaments
 - a. Do not test God!
 - b. God and His Word are the same yesterday, today and forever (**Heb 13:8**)

- First, an attentive ear
- Second, an obedient will

3. A Humble Heart (**I Sam 3:15-18**)

- a. The Scripture is filled with one simple truth: God loves a humble heart
- b. Pride is at the core of all evil in the hearts of God's creation, and satan plays on that time and time again
 - i. It started at the very beginning
 - ii. **Gen 3:1-5** - *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, Did God really say, You must not eat from any tree in the garden? The woman said to the serpent, We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, You must*

not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die. You will not certainly die, the serpent said to the woman. For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.

1. The temptation then, as it still is today, for us to believe that we can be the judge of what is right and wrong, what is good and what is evil
2. To be like God, as satan said to Eve, would make us independent of God
3. We see that clearly today
 - a. Today's culture of humanism claims the right to determine morality
 - b. To determine right from wrong apart from and in spite of God's Word
 - c. **Jer 10:10-11** tells us that anyone who seeks to be god will themselves perish from the earth and from under the heavens
 - d. This is also the same ultimate fate of the antichrist who will proclaim himself to be God
- c. Pride also comes into direct conflict with hearing the voice of God
 - i. It clogs your spiritual ears
 - ii. Pride will cause you to listen only to your own voice, not the voice of God or, for that matter, anyone else
 - iii. That is why spiritual pride is such a killer of your ability to grow in God
 1. **Col 2:18** - *Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.*
 2. To be spiritually proud means that you are unteachable
 - a. Most often this is seen in those who pride themselves on their spiritual intellect
 - b. This does not impress God
 - c. That translates into a stagnant relationship and faith that God calls lukewarm
 3. How does God respond to that type of faith?
 - a. **Rev 3:15-16** - *I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.*
 - b. **James 4:10** – *Humble yourself before the Lord and He will lift you up.*

An Attentive Ear
An Obedient Will
A Humble Heart

4. A Godly Walk (**I Sam 3:19-21**)

- a. It is not enough to hear God's voice
- b. It is not even enough to resolve in your heart to obey Him
- c. You must walk it out through your actions
 - i. In Samuel's case, we are told that he didn't let any of God's words fall to the ground
 - ii. That means He was faithful in obeying God by his actions his entire life
 - iii. What was the result of that?
 1. Every person knew that Samuel was a prophet of God
 2. Not because they were told but because of what they observed in his life of obedience
- d. Once again, it is not enough that you say you obey God; what do people see in your life to make that statement true?
 - i. This comes down to the moment of your choices
 1. What will you choose to do?
 2. Actions reflect your spiritual maturity
 3. Immaturity means that you look to place blame when your choices are unwise ones
 4. Maturity means that I carefully, prayerfully consider my actions and then take responsibility for them
 - ii. It will not always be easy
 - iii. God is with you, but you will not be shielded from life's difficulties
 1. Samuel experienced great victories in God
 2. But he was also called on to do some very hard things
 - iv. God used Samuel to anoint the greatest leader in Israel's history – King David ([I Sam 16:11-13](#))
 - v. But he also had to tell Saul that, because of his disobedience, he was going to not only lose the throne as king but that his sons would not rule after him ([I Sam 13:14, 15:26](#))
 - vi. Samuel was the final judge of Israel and was the only man God trusted to simultaneously hold the offices of judge, prophet and priest of Israel
 - vii. But while he is listed in the faith hall of fame in Hebrews 11, his sons, appointed as priests when Samuel got too old, like Eli's sons, became wicked and greedy ([I Sam 8:1-3](#))
- e. A godly walk does not make you immune to the struggles of this life but it will place you in God's will where He will guide, guard, and defend you

Samuel's life, beginning as a boy, serves as a model for our lives today to hear, obey, and live God's Word through His voice

- An attentive ear
- An obedient will
- A humble heart
- A godly walk

Samuel was not perfect, but he heard God's voice, he obeyed and lived his life according to what God told him.