

2.26.2024  
HEARD  
Sermon Notes

If we are going to participate with what God is doing in our lives and in the building of His kingdom, we need to be a people that acknowledges that God is a Father who hears us and speaks to us.

Do we position ourselves to listen? When we hear His voice, how do we respond? What does practice of listening first say about our hearts towards the Lord and His word?

**Samuel: THE LAST JUDGE & 1st PROPHET of Israel**

Read 1 Samuel 1-3

See the contrast between the two family lines

Summary of 4 characters and their relationship to listening to the voice of the Father

The importance of hearing/listening (**שמע** **shâma'**, shaw-mah': to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience).

Scriptures about hearing:

Luke 8:10-15 How do you receive what you hear?

Isa 55:2-3 Listen that you may live

Rom 10:14

**The Lord:**

- Psalm 107:9 "He satisfies a longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things"
- "Guard your steps when you go to the house of God; to draw near to listen is better than the sacrifice offered by fools." Ecclesiastes 5:1 NRSV

**Faith:**

There is a strong connection that we read between hearing and having faith. Our relationship with our father is first established by our 'hearing' His word. Our faith grows as we hear His voice with acceptance and obedience even when we do not see the outcome, or the full promise just yet.

In what ways has your faith grown or been challenged through hearing His voice?  
Do you remember the time you first heard His voice? His promises?

- Romans 10:17 “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”
- Hebrews 11 “ **1**Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2**For by it the men of old gained approval. **3**By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible. **4**By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks. **5**By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. **6**And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

#### **Biblical & Historical Context:**

- Israel was undergoing a spiritual famine/priesthood was corrupt, voice of the Lord was scarce | corruption, hardness of hearts. Israelites are not willing to listen or seek the Lord's voice
- Faithful Study Bible: First Samuel is set in the 11th century bc, a period marked by regional conflicts such as those between the Philistines and the Israelites (e.g., 1 Sam 17). Egypt no longer had much influence in Canaan—which Israel inhabited—so local city-states and tribal confederations vied for dominance. This atmosphere lies behind 1 Samuel.
- Israel was developing, its borders were not strong enough yet so surrounding nations were in conflict often trying to gain power over Israel.
- Spiritually, Israel was formalizing their practices & process
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Israel's state of development created instability, the people were looking for strong leadership but did not want to rely solely on having God as their king, leader, head of armies\*.

#### **4 Characters | 4 examples of HEARING**

**Hannah:** A woman of Faith in relationship with a 'Listening Father'

Read 1 Sam 1:9-18

“Poured out her soul to the Lord...Eli finally realized, blessed her...her face no longer sad.”

**Condition:** Bitter & filled with anguish, she went to the Lord regarded Him as Lord of Hosts\*

**Response:** Praised in faith, knowing God's promises will come to pass and what God had in store was good for her. Was heard & blessed and kept her covenant with the Lord, her response was in PRAISE with a song - 1 Samuel 2:1-11

Hannah was Blessed with 5 more children, she gives up one for the Lord God multiplies her blessing (ie. Abraham & Isaac)

- **1 Samuel 1:10** She, [c]greatly distressed, prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly.  
**11** And she made a vow and said, “LORD of armies, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your bond-servant and remember me, and not forget Your bond-servant, but will give Your bond-servant a [d]son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and a razor shall never come on his head.”
  - **ELI: 1 Samuel 1:13** Hannah, she was speaking in her heart, only her lips were quivering, but her voice was not heard. So Eli thought that she was drunk. | Showed the condition of society at the time, that Eli would assume first she was drunk instead of praying.
  - **1 Sam 1:19b** The Lord remembered her
  - “The change in Hannah’s countenance shows that she received the promise with faith, something necessary if we will inherit the promises of God ([Hebrews 6:12](#)).
- i. Hannah shows how we can regain the joy of fellowship in the house of the LORD again: by pouring out our heart before the LORD and by receiving His word with *faith*.” -David Guzik

**Eli:** Current high priest | Partial Hearing

Read 1 Samuel 22:27-36

**Condition:** High priest, but feared reprimanding his sons, he *heard* of what they were doing and did nothing. He *heard* the warning of the Lord but did not act.

**Response:** Samuel told Him God’s prophecy against Eli and his house, Eli accepted the will of the Lord as good, even though it would be hard to endure.

- **1 Samuel 2:29/27** Then a man of God came to Eli and said to him, and *why* are you honoring your sons above Me, by making yourselves fat with the [r]choicest of every offering of My people Israel?’

- **1 Samuel 3:15-18** Eli 'exclaimed, "It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth Him good." Such is the spirit of meek and un murmuring submission in which we ought to receive the dispensations of God, however severe and afflictive.... In his personal character he seems to have been a good man, but his sons' conduct was flagrantly bad; and though his misfortunes claim our sympathy, it is impossible to approve or defend the weak and unfaithful course which, in the retributive justice of God, brought these adversities upon him.' Robert Jamieson

There may be seasons in our life when our relationship with God has an open communication, and others where we fall into partial hearing.

What may be motives or reasons why we may fall into partially hearing the voice of the Lord?

If you have experienced this, how was this season marked in your life?

**Sons of Eli, Hophni & Phineas:** Priests | Did not know or hear the Lord

Read 1 Samuel 2:12-17; 22-26

In a priestly position in line to be high priests, "Sons of belial"; 'doing' the service of the Lord, but didn't know Him or Hear from Him, not of the Lord

**Condition:** were in the right position, as priests in charge spiritually of Israel, but corrupt. Overall, dictated the state of Israel, apart from the Lord, His voice silenced

**Response:** They did not hear the Lord or their father, chose NOT to do their work as priests correctly. Their sin grew, their hearts hardened and their ears deafened.

Additional reading: Eze 3:7, Zec 7:11-12

**1 Sam 2:13-17** "Before they burned the fat: God's portion was always given first, so it was wrong to take the priest's portion **before they burned the fat**. The **fat** was thought to be the most luxurious, best part of the animal, so they gave it to God. The idea was that God should always get the best, and God should get His portion first. But in their pride the sons of Eli took their portion **before they burned the fat**." {David Guzik}

\*\* their sin caused men to hate sacrificing to the Lord, their sin caused others to distance themselves from the Lord\*\*

- **1 Sam 2:12** Now the sons of Eli were useless men; they did not know the LORD.
- **17** And so the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD disrespectfully.

- **God's plan for the house of Eli - 1 Sam 3:11** Then the LORD said to Samuel, "Behold, I am going to do a thing in Israel, *and* both ears of everyone who hears *about* it will ring. **12** On that day I will carry out against Eli everything that I have spoken in regard to his house, from beginning to end. **13** For I have told him that I am going to judge his house forever for the wrongdoing that he knew, because his sons were bringing a curse on themselves and he did not rebuke them. **14** Therefore I have sworn to the house of Eli that the wrongdoing of Eli's house shall never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering."
- **1 Samuel 2:17** And so the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD, for the men treated the offering of the LORD disrespectfully.

It is very heartbreaking to see that the Sons of Eli' blatant disobedience and lack of hearing brought so much consequence to their lives and the lives of the nation of Israel. In both Eli's and his son's case, not hearing from the Lord brought darkness, distance, deafness and callousness. It was seen in their lives and the lives of a nation.

Like an old friend whom you've lost contact with, continuing to disregard the Lord's voice will result in less communion with Him. We begin to not recognize His voice, His heart...His presence in our lives.

Have you experienced this 'darkness', this sense of blindness before? How was this season in your life characterized by?

**Samuel:** BUT SAMUEL - in contrast to Eli's sons, Samuel served the Lord and HEARD HIS VOICE

**Condition:** Placed and dedicated to the Lord in the temple to serve under high priest

**Response:** As God called him, he didn't recognize his voice until Eli instructed him to answer in faith and willing to 'listen and obey'. Samuel became prophet and judge, last judge of Israel.

- NAME: Samuel means HEARD OF GOD or God has heard | Hannah: "Because I have asked for him of the LORD."
- A child of fervent prayer of Hannah his barren mother
- Dedicated to the Lord and placed in the tabernacle to serve under Eli
- Until He heard the Lord's voice calling him three times, he had not known the Lord personally
- **1 Sam 2:35** But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he

will walk before My anointed always. | This was a prophecy of Samuel, David, Jesus

- **The prophetic call:**

- **1 Sam 3:1** Now the boy Samuel was attending to the service of the LORD before Eli. And word from the LORD was rare in those days; visions were infrequent.
  - Eli's eyesight was poor
  - Lamp of God still burning = just before sunrise
- 3 times the Lord calls Samuel and he confuses it for Eli's voice
- **7** Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him. | Samuel had not yet established a personal relationship with God, he did not know His voice just yet
- Eli realized first that the voice of the Lord was calling Samuel, tells Samuel to answer to the call **"SPEAK, FOR YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING"**
- **Turning Point for Samuel: 1 Samuel 3:10-13** **10** Then the Lord came and stood, and called as at the other times: "Samuel! Samuel!" **And Samuel said, "Speak, for Your servant is listening."** **11** Then the Lord said to Samuel, "Behold, I am going to do a thing in Israel, and both ears of everyone who hears about it will ring. **12** On that day I will carry out against Eli everything that I have spoken in regard to his house, from beginning to end.
- **HE LISTENED, His words DID NOT FAIL: 19** Now Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and He let none of his words fail. **20** And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was confirmed as a prophet of the LORD. **21** And the LORD appeared again at Shiloh, because the LORD revealed Himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.

God's promises do not fail, His commitment to our faith will not let us down. Samuel heard His voice fully, and continued to live a life of participation with what God did to create His kingdom.

We see later on that Samuel is used to bring in and anointed Israel's first King Saul and later, the beloved King, David. God used Him endlessly to bring His voice and word to the people of Israel and men of leadership, chosen by God.

Hearing His voice brings blessing, and most importantly brings depth in our knowing our father more intimately.

How does knowing this bring you joy, hope, and peace?

How have you been experiencing hearing from the Father lately?

