

“God Calls Us By Our Name”

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1 Samuel 3.1-10, John 1.43-51
January 14, 2024.
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Today we to talk about a powerful biblical passage that teaches us the importance of listening to and obeying the voice of God. Today we are going to examine Samuel's call, and how to apply it to our lives.

In the story of Samuel, we find a clear example of a servant of God who learned to discern the divine voice in the midst of a world full of noise and confusion. Through this story, we will discover the lessons we can apply in our lives today, and how we can cultivate a close relationship with God, recognize his voice, and respond in obedience.

1. Samuel, a servant willing to listen (1 Samuel 3:1-9). In Samuel's day, the word of God was scarce, but his heart was willing to listen. On a quiet night, Samuel heard his name being called and, at first, mistook the voice for that of the priest Eli. However, Eli taught him to recognize the voice of God. God called Samuel three times before he understood that it was God speaking to him.

Similarly, we too must be attentive and open to the voice of God, even when it seems to come from unexpected places. And although sometimes we can confuse the voice of God with other voices or thoughts, it is necessary to be attentive to the voice of God, for this it is crucial to cultivate an intimate relationship with God through prayer and the study of his word to recognize his voice clearly.

Samuel's attitude in responding to the voice of God is worthy of admiration. Although he did not fully understand what God had planned, Samuel humbly responded, “speak, for your servant hears.” His willingness to obey is an example to all of us. Let us be willing to surrender to God's will, even when we do not fully understand his ways.

2. The importance of obedience to the voice of God (1 Samuel 3:10-18)

God has a specific calling for each of us, just as he had for Samuel. When God called Samuel, he gave him a challenging message and revealed his will to him. Although Samuel was young and inexperienced, he did not hesitate to obey and respond to God's call. This teaches us that God's call is not based on our age or abilities, but on our willingness to obey.

In our daily lives, we may also face times when we do not feel ready to heed His voice. We may question whether we are capable enough or have the experience necessary to fulfill what God is calling us to do. But Samuel's story reminds us that God is not limited by our human limitations. He sees our potential and calls us to obey and trust him.

When Samuel heard the voice of God, he surely felt fear and trepidation. But despite his fear, Samuel humbly responded and said, "speak, for your servant hears." It is normal to feel fear when we are faced with the unknown or when God calls us to do something that seems bigger than we can handle. But we must remember that God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-control. He is with us every step of the way and will empower us to face any challenge that comes our way.

When Samuel responded, the Lord revealed a challenging message to the priest Eli. Samuel had to convey a difficult message, but he was obedient and faithful in fulfilling the divine purpose.

Like Samuel, God calls us by our name, by which he knows us, and he knows our limitations, but also our abilities. If we have been called it is to fulfill his purpose in our homes, communities, and workplaces. Sometimes this may require us to have difficult conversations or face challenges, but we can trust that God will equip and guide us every step of the way.

The story of Samuel shows us that God's voice is always present, calling us and guiding us in our daily lives.

Let's pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the story of Samuel and the powerful lessons we find in it. Help us to be servants willing to listen to and obey your voice in the midst of a world full of distractions and noise.

Allow us to cultivate a close relationship with you, recognizing your voice through prayer and the study of your word. Give us the courage to obey your call and the wisdom to discern your will in our lives. May your holy spirit guide and enable us to be instruments of your love and truth in this world. In the mighty name of Jesus, Amen.

May the love of God, his peace guide us, and his voice direct us in every step we take. May we be known as faithful disciples, willing to listen to and obey the voice of our beloved heavenly Father. May God bless you abundantly! Amen.