

*The men you and I admire the most in ministry all have the same thing in common - they were able to hear from God : two examples*

*P. Greg - Mt. Lolly Perth W. Au / Pastor mitchell was teaching a lesson on how to write a sermon - Pastor Greg felt called to preach the Gospel*

*P. Jesse - at orientation for starting nursing school... when the instructor said this is going to be a lot of work, really nursing is a calling, then God said, what are you called to? I settled: I am called to preach*

Entering into the fellowship fast next sunday, heading into conference - Needed dimension for every man is to hear from God. **Our Txt:** Samuel functioning in the temple - helping/ laboring for God - and yet this was the fist time God spoke to Samuel in this way : We can be functioning in church - helpful, involved, faithful - and yet miss hearing from God

## I. WHAT THE WORK OF GOD REQUIRES

### A. Give an Understanding what the work of God requires

1. God involves people (you and I) to accomplish His will on the earth
  - a) Old saying - without God we cannot - with out people God will not
  - b) Samuel was born into an clear picture of what ministry is / true about serious men this morning - some here know what gods will is for you life others are trying to work it out still - that's ok

### 2. **The work of God will attract a variety of people**

- a) **Kingdom of God is a drag net**

*Matthew 13:47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,*

- b) **Different types of people/ different age groups/ different temperaments / different abilities/ different gifts**

### 3. The work of God requires the **willingness of people ready to serve**

- a) Foundation of all ministry - is you are helping create an atmosphere where people can have an encounter with the living God
- b) This is what Samuel was born into, men here today this is what you are involved in

*1 Samuel 2:11 Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under Eli the priest.*

- (1) **Samuel lived at the temple/ ate at the temple/ worked at the temple/ studied Gods word in the temple / some of you may feel like that** Missing the point

### B. Danger: Men can be serving God and yet miss hearing from God

#### 1. Labor without revelation

*1 Samuel 3:1 Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.*

- a) Samuel functioning in the temple - helping/ laboring for God - and yet this was the fist time God spoke to Samuel in this way

- b) Many of us - We can be functioning in church - helpful, involved, faithful - miss Gods voice

#### 2. When God speaks to us - we think God is speaking to someone else

- a) Pastor Greg preached Wednesday about projection - assume certain things about our future/ the will of God for our lives that are not true.

*1 Samuel 3:2-6 And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he could not see, 3 and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the Lord where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, 4 that the Lord called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" 5 So he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. 6 Then the Lord called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again."*

- b) Men can hear the same preaching/ be involved in the same way - what is produced in one man is completely different for another

#### 3. Missing the expectation : difficult time believing God could or would want to speak to us

*1 Samuel 3:7 (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.)*

- a) The potential that God would speak to Samuel did not enter into Samuels thinking

## II. FAILURE TO HEAR GODS VOICE

### A. What blocks men from hearing God

#### 1. Our Fear and Pride

- a) For some of us - hearing Gods voice is terrifying because He might tell you to do something you don't want to do
- b) *When talking about conferences in the past I've heard some men say "I thought I heard from God but I think it was just the atmosphere and I was just feeling emotional.." As if hearing from God is supposed to be emotionless*

- c) For some - you know exactly what God has told you to do - make up reasons why you can't

#### 2. Secondly what blocks men from hearing Gods voice - **Our failures**

- a) Our past disqualifies us from hearing God / if I wasn't such a screwup God could have used me

**John 21:17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonah, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep."

### 3. Carnality / distraction

- a) Issue with carnality is that it's like Novocain to your spiritual muscles - fill your life up with all the things of this world and claim God never speaks to you - problem your house is full - He can't get in.
- b) What you take into your life will determine your spiritual health - same way physically I can look at guys physical health and have a pretty good idea that what they are taking in is probably not healthy

**(1) What do you listen to? What are you watching online? What do you give your appetites to?**

### B. Seeing the potential for your life

1. God wants to speak to you personally
  - a) Profound lesson in our text: God wants to speak to us personally - where you're at
  - b) What sets men off into their destiny: Revelation of God about His will for their lives

**Ephesians 4:1** I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

2. God wants to speak to you again
  - a) Encouraging thing to me - God came back to Samuel again (three times) and spoke to him
    - (1) Some you've felt God speak to you in the past / listen God can do it again - can speak to you again
3. Hearing God's voice has the potential to change your life radically
  - a) God's voice can give you direction about destiny / making decisions that alter the course of your future/ families future

**Romans 1:14** I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

- b) God speaking to us will give us direction for our future/ challenge us about what we've allowed into our lives/ make clear the decisions we need to make / doing what He wants us to do

## III. Practical steps to hearing God's voices

### A. Willing to listen

1. The primary way God speaks to His people is through His word
  - a) Bible - God's self-revelation to man / Bible is alive - active able to speak into your life personally

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- b) Samuel was willing to stop and listen

**1 Samuel 3:7** (Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him.) 8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. So he arose and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord had called the boy. 9 Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, 'Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

- (1) Listen to your pastor/ listen to the word of God / listen to the Holy Spirit

### 2. Through Preaching

- a) Hear preaching - where are you in that sermon - does God have access to speak to you through the man of God/ preaching is supernatural - *My calling - god spoke to me in a sermon by PG shields of brass*

### B. Willing to surrender

#### 1. Obedience for the first time

- a) If God is speaking to you for the first time - that's an opportunity to respond - begin to direct your life at the will of God
  - (1) First you need to speak to your pastor about what God has said / accountability - gives your pastor access to discipline you speak into your life
  - (2) Follow through - decisions you make or are going to make in life - does that get you closer to the will of God or take you further away: Jobs/ marriage/ career choices/ family / financial decisions

**Luke 5:5** But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

#### 2. Settling the issue of calling

- a) Men who know what the will of God is for your life
- b) You need to settle the issue of calling - For the man who knows he is called and refuses to settle that will be miserable and unsatisfied doing anything else

**Isaiah 6:8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

- c) Knowing you are called and not doing it - that feeling will never go away : better alternative - Just obey

### C. Willing to obey

#### 1. The Purpose and will of God for your life all comes down to our willingness to obey

**1 Samuel 3:10** Now the Lord came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears."

#### 2. Next week - we are entering into a three day fast / after that conference

- a) This will be a time when God will speak to people - **cities and nations hang in the balance for men who can hear from God and obey** \ What does God want to speak to you