

SERIES: THE CALLING

SERMON: THE CALL OR THE SONG

8-2-20

1 Samuel 3:1-14 (NLT) Meanwhile, the boy Samuel served the Lord by assisting Eli. Now in those days messages from the Lord were very rare, and visions were quite uncommon.

2 One night Eli, who was almost blind by now, had gone to bed. 3 The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was sleeping in the Tabernacle near the Ark of God. 4 Suddenly the Lord called out, "Samuel!"

"Yes?" Samuel replied. "What is it?" 5 He got up and ran to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go back to bed." So he did.

6 Then the Lord called out again, "Samuel!"

Again Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

"I didn't call you, my son," Eli said. "Go back to bed."

7 Samuel did not yet know the Lord because he had never had a message from the Lord before. 8 So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?"

Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy. 9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

10 And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"

And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

11 Then the Lord said to Samuel, "I am about to do a shocking thing in Israel. 12 I am going to carry out all my threats against Eli and his family, from beginning to end. 13 I have warned him that judgment is coming upon his family forever, because his sons are blaspheming God and he hasn't disciplined them. 14 So I have vowed that the sins of Eli and his sons will never be forgiven by sacrifices or offerings."

(Explain Scripture)

THERE IS A CALL GOING OUT.

IT IS A CALL FROM THE DEEP PLACES OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

A CALL TO WAKE UP.

A CALL TO SHAKE YOURSELF.

A CALL TO RISE.

BUTThere is also a song that is echoing out across the atmosphere. It is a song being sung by our enemy - a hypnotic song that will rock you to sleep.

ILLUSTRATION:

Hazel - my granddaughter = Lullaby = Turn out the lights, turn on the fan, rock her and sing here a song. I lull her to sleep.

Lulled = cause someone to feel deceptively secure or confident, ease, pacify, soothe, quiet, silence, calm, settle, still, hush

Have you been lulled to sleep?

The song that is being sung in this world, right now by the enemy, is in the constant distractions, the chaos, the media, the news, the rocking fear, the reports, the uncertainties. And it is lulling people to sleep.

ILLUSTRATION:

Tell Pied Piper Story

Are you asleep or are you awake?

Ephesians 5:14-17

Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

¹⁵ So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. ¹⁶ Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. ¹⁷ Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do.

> If you are asleep - you are not aware of what is going on around you. Your senses are dulled.

> If you are awake - you are aware of what is going on around you. Your senses are sharp.

NOTE: God called Samuel 3 times.

The original Hebrew language of the O.T. The text repeats the same word three times for emphasis and importance.

Isaiah 6:3 "And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Ezekiel 21:27 "A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it. This also shall not be, until he comes, the one to whom judgment belongs, and I will give it to him."

Jeremiah 22:29 "O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD!"

THERE IS A LOUD, STRONG AND URGENT CALL OF GOD GOING OUT TO HIS CHILDREN

ILLUSTRATION:

My Dad had a similar 3 part approach of waking you up.

- 1) Knock on the door.
- 2) "Put your feet on the floor".
- 3) Splashing water on your face

GOD IS CALLING TO HIS PEOPLE TO WAKE UP - TO STAND UP AND BE ALERT!

ILLUSTRATION:

Me: Sing Rock a Bye Baby

Me: Call out on megaphone

You would have to be deaf not to hear this. But we can be deaf spiritually and not hear the call of God.

So, how do we hear the call?

1. YOU MUST HAVE EARS TO HEAR

Mark 4:9, Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HAVING EARS AND EARS TO HEAR.

In the Bible Jesus speaks of those who have "ears to hear" at the end of a difficult saying or parable . Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed contrasts types of hearers: those who let the Word of God pass straight through their ears and those who listen and seek understanding.

> Some hear the Word, yet they do not allow it to take root because the temptation of worldly pleasures and comfort overcomes them.

> Others end up rejecting the Word because of persecution or trials.

> Others hear the Word and open themselves to understand and accept it so that it transforms them.

It is up to the hearer to decide whether to take the Word seriously and pursue understanding; only a few are willing.

WE ALL HAVE EARS

BUT FEW HAVE EARS TO HEAR.

Whenever Jesus says, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear,” is another way of saying, “Listen up! Pay close attention!”

HOW DO YOU HAVE EARS TO HEAR?

Your sharpen your hearing by fine tuning your heart?

ILLUSTRATION:

Radio station...Interference on your station. You have to make an adjustment.

You have to get your heart fixed on God. Not fixed on worldly things. Your desires, your motivations, your ambitions, your thoughts must be on Him. We need to adjust our heart.

ILLUSTRATION:

Any musician knows that you can get an instrument perfectly in tune, but if, after tuning it, the instrument sits neglected or gets knocked around, it's not going to stay in tune. Instruments require constant re-tuning. he describes the heart as a musical instrument.

Your heart will get out of tune if it is neglected.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

2. YOU MUST RECOGNIZE THE VOICE OF GOD

John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

ILLUSTRATION:

Sheep knew their shepherds voice, his smell, the way he looked. Because the shepherd hung out with them all the time. They would never follow another voice or be easily fooled by someone masquerading as the shepherd.

If you don't hang out with God you are not going to recognize his voice. If you stray off and away from the shepherd you won't be familiar with his voice.

ILLUSTRATION:

When you are close with someone and you talk to them regularly and they come in the room. You don't have to see them, to recognize they are there. You know their voice.

If you talk to them regularly, they don't have to announce who they are. You recognize their voice before they ever tell you who they are.

God called Samuel 3 times and Samuel thought Eli was calling for him. The first time he went to Eli. Eli said, "I didn't call you". The second time he went to Eli. Eli again said, "I didn't call you." The third time Eli said, "I think the Lord is talking to you. Go back and answer the Lord." Samuel kept going to Eli because he thought Eli was calling him.

**DO YOU HEAR GOD?
OR DO YOU ONLY HEAR THE VOICES OF THE WORLD?**

**YOU CAN HAVE EARS AND YOU CAN HEAR ME TODAY.
OR YOU CAN HAVE EARS TO HEAR THE VOICE OF GOD TODAY.**

- > Are you here today. Because a friend asked you?
- > Do you come to church because Mom and Dad told you you have to come?
- > Are you here because your husband or your wife has asked you to come?
- > Are you watching at home because you've been told it's the right thing to do?

HOW DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE VOICE OF GOD?

Shut off the other voices. Turn off the other voices.

You can hear but you can become dull of hearing. Which means you don't hear clearly or sharply.

ILLUSTRATION:

If you are in a crowded room. It is hard to distinguish one voice over the others. You have to get away with that person on your own so you can hear them and they can hear you.

Matthew 6:6⁶ But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

3: IT IS YOUR CHOICE TO ANSWER THE CALL

Are you hearing God and going back to sleep?

I believe God is calling out to each person here and each person watching! But we have to answer the call. God waits for us to answer. God did not speak to Samuel until Samuel answered him. Samuel said.... "Speak, your servant is listening."

**GOD ALWAYS CALLS YOU FIRST AND WAITS
FOR YOU TO ANSWER.**

You can say yes or you can say no.

I have learned that when people don't answer - their answer is no. If you are not answering God you are telling Him "No".

Deuteronomy 30:15 Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster.

CLOSING:

**THERE WILL BE ANOTHER CALL.
WILL YOU HAVE EARS TO HEAR?
WILL YOU HEAR THE CALL OF JESUS TO COME HOME?**

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.* ¹⁷ *Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.

We see three different calls here again.

- 1) Jesus will shout**
- 2) The archangel with shout**
- 3) The trumpet will sound**

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6 ⁴ But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. ⁵ For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. ⁶ So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded.