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1 Samuel 3:1-18, pt.2

Weekly Bible Study Schedule

Tuesday, February 9, 7:00 AM in HHR #5
(breakfast provided)

Tuesday, February 9, 8:30 PM in Office #225
(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)

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non-denominational**

Theocracy: **The Lord's kingly rule over His people.**
Israel's desire for an earthly king is a rejection of The Lord, as their king.

Samuel gave definition to the new order of God's rule over Israel, from Samuel as the last judge -to Samuel as the first prophet that anoints two kings during his lifetime. **The king in Israel was not to be autonomous in his authority and power;** rather, he was to be **subject to the law of the Lord and the word of the prophet.**¹ In other words, the prophet speaks God's truth to the king and the king leads under the rule of God.

Samuel's heart revealed by the words out of his mouth: **"Hear I am; you called me"...** **"Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening"** (8, 10) is an open hearted and opened eared posture to receive God's message. Closed hearts and occupied ears don't hear God's voice. A renewal of God speaking to His people brought forward through Samuel is the same God and same voice that wants to bring forward spiritual renewal in your life.

Last week's study discussed the first three of five characteristics of God's voice.

1. **The Quite Voice - Listen?**
2. **The Teaching Voice - How do we hear the voice of God?**
3. **The First Time Voice - Hearing God's voice for the first time.**

This week we complete the study with the fourth and fifth characteristics of God's voice.

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. 12 At that time

I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end. 13 For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them. 14 Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.' *15 Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision, 16 but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." 17 "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you." 18 So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him.*

4. The Obedient Voice – "I Will!"

Obedience is usually not convenient. God has a habit of calling us at the wrong time. For Samuel it was 3 or 4am. But is there a right time, if we don't give God our time? Undoubtedly, God's message made Samuel uneasy. Could it be that Samuel was anxiously pondering, "What is this thing that will make my ears tingle?" "What am I to do with this message of Judgment against Eli?" Remember, Eli was his mentor, the priest he served. So much is shifting for Samuel: he hears God's voice for the first time, God is getting ready to do something big; Eli, his mentor, is judged for his sin of not restraining his sons for blaspheming God, and Samuel against his will must tell Eli of his pending judgment.

Verse 14 instructs us that, *'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'* Something Eli and his sons had been doing for years. No longer would God accept their sacrifices or offerings to cover their sin. Their disobedience to the known Word of the Lord and revealing of God no longer received a pass. God wanted obedience – following Him from the heart and with faith rather than the ritual of external sacrifice with a disobedient heart. Let's be sure the sacrificial system to temporarily cover the sins of Israel was designed by God and was a type of what was to come with the Christ who



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would one day be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of humanity. We know that to be Jesus, the one that ended the need for the sacrificial system.

“Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people’s sins”.
Hebrews. 7:27

A similar narrative happened with king Saul in 1 Samuel 15. The sins of the Amalekites had become many and evil that God commanded Saul to lead the Hebrews into war against the Amalekites. Saul was not to bring any person, animal or thing back to the base camp. Saul’s army did defeat the Amalekites but Saul did not obey the command of the Lord. Saul did what he wanted to do. Saul exercised an authority that wasn’t his to exercise. As is human nature, Saul denied any wrongdoing, when Samuel challenged him by saying:

*“Then what is all the bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cattle I hear?” ...But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? **Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.** Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft, and stubbornness as bad as worshipping idols. So because you have rejected the command of the LORD, he has rejected you as king.” (15:10, 22)*

God wants obedience from His people. Not as dictator, but as one that knows **the life of obedience is a life of love, faith and trust.**

- **Love:** If you love God, you will obey God.
“But whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him” (1 John 2:5)

- **Faith:** If you have faith in Jesus as the one that forgives you of your sins through His sacrificial death on the cross, then you will obey His commands.
*“If you **confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**” (Romans 10:9)*
- **Trust:** If you trust in the nature and promises of God, He will take care of you.
***Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.** (Proverbs 3:5-6)*

Obedience is not usually convenient. It does usually take you out of your comfort zone. It sometimes doesn’t make sense. It might be a road less traveled. Your obedience is an act of faith and trust, and it also is an act of surrender.

5. The Voice of Surrender – “Yes, Lord!”

When you put your yes on the table, God will put your yes on the map. The most important posture you can take in life is say yes to God, to submit to Him. We say yes to so many people for so many ambitions, to move ahead, to gain popularity, to be liked...these are the lesser things in life. They will not satisfy...they don’t have longevity...they’re cotton candy.

When you surrender to the Lord and His plan, He will catapult you farther than you ever imagined you could go, and to places you never thought you could enter, and with your relationship to God intact.

In my field level observation...a resistance to surrender to Jesus is the number one reason why people don’t follow and serve Him. They might believe He exists. They might practice forms and functions of religion. They might go to church or some other place of worship. But they refuse to surrender to Jesus.

I believe that you can define and view faith from the place of absolute surrender. In other words, regardless of what’s happening in ones life they surrender.

¹Biblica
²Not to be confused with king Saul



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