

Samuel's Important Words

Introduction

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

1. Often it is true that we only "hear" what we want to hear.
2. If we have a predisposition against God or any part of His will, it will affect our "hearing."
 - A. Those who are not "of God" do not hear Him.
 - B. Jesus said to the unbelieving Jews:

John 8:47 He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

- C. How much better it is if we determine to have the attitude expressed in the words of young Samuel:

1 Samuel 3:10 ..."Speak, for Your servant hears."

3. What is involved in this kind of attitude toward God's word?

Reverence Toward God Himself

1. **How humble and respectful are we before God?**
2. **Having a receptive attitude toward what God says, is a reverent disposition toward God Himself.**

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **Fear God and keep His commandments**, For this is man's all.

Luke 6:46 "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' **and not do** the things which I say?"

3. **We will be eager to hear God when we have decided, like the Macedonian brethren, to give ourselves to God in genuine respect.**

2 Corinthians 8:5 And not only as we had hoped, but **they first gave themselves to the Lord**, and then to us by the will of God.

4. **Samuel's sentiment was: "Speak, Lord, for Your servant hears."**
(1 Samuel 3:9)

- A. **What we need is the respect that is due our Master.**
- B. **That will produce the submissiveness that comes from respect.**
- C. **Unfortunately, we sometimes are willing to "serve" God only in an advisory capacity!**

5. **We ought to have the attitude of the "good and faithful servant"**

Matthew 25:21 His lord said to him, **'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things**, I will make you ruler over many things...

Responsiveness to Divine Truth

1. **Could it be that we are so withdrawn into our subjective selves that we are unresponsive to outside communication, even from God?**
2. **How “willing to yield” are we?**

James 3:17 But **the wisdom that is from above is** first pure, then peaceable, gentle, **willing to yield**, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

- A. **“Easily persuaded” (Alford); “ready to be convinced” (Knox)**
- B. **With respect to divine truth, do words like these describe us: tender, accessible, open, teachable, receptive, responsive, etc.?**
- C. **The unresponsive heart is illustrated by Pharaoh.**

Exodus 5:2 And Pharaoh said, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, nor will I let Israel go."

Exodus 10:3 So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.'"

- D. **The responsive heart is illustrated by Josiah and Cornelius.**
2 Kings 22:19

Acts 10:33 So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, **we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.**

3. **When God speaks, is there a “sympathetic vibration” within our hearts?**
 - A. **Does God’s word “strike a responsive chord” within us?**
 - B. **Is our mind “attuned” to God’s mind?**
 - C. **Going along with responsiveness to divine truth, of course, is unresponsiveness to the temptations of the devil.**
4. **In practical terms, what does our “readiness to hear” come down to?**
 - A. **Are we eager to study the Bible for ourselves?**
 - B. **Do we honestly look forward to hearing preaching and teaching from the Bible?**
 - C. **How do we respond to those who come to us in the Lord’s name with something we need to hear?**
 - 1) **Paul asked, “Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth” (Galatians 4:16).**

Hebrews 13:17 Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, **for they watch out for your souls**, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

5. **Jesus warned:**

Luke 8:18 Therefore **take heed how you hear**. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

Readiness to Obey God

1. **How eager and ready are we to really and truly obey God?**
 - A. **Are we at God's "beck and call?"**
 - B. **Are we ready and willing to "do His bidding?"**
 - C. **A parent may issue this warning to a child: "I don't want to have to ask you a second time."**
 - D. **How many times does the Lord have to ask us to do His will?**
 - 1) **Reluctance to obey God is illustrated by Moses.**

Exodus 4:13-14 But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send." So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and He said: "Is not Aaron the Levite your brother? **I know that he can speak well.** And look, he is also coming out to meet you. When he sees you, he will be glad in his heart.

- 2) **Readiness to obey God is illustrated by Isaiah.**

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.**"

2. **We should have a purpose for listening to God: We should be striving to live more obediently before Him.**
 - A. **If our Bible study is for mere curiosity, etc., we may not even see the answers to our questions when we find them.**
 - B. **Whether we “recognize” the Lord's “voice” when we hear it depends greatly on our attitude. This is why attitude is so very important.**

John 7:17 If anyone **wills to do His will**, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

- 1) **It is as if God were asking, before permitting us to discern the truth: “Why do you want to know this? What do you intend to do with this information?”**
3. **Our real degree of readiness to obey the Lord is indicated by whether we concentrate more on what we have to do or what we want to do.**
4. **Genuine eagerness to do God’s will includes a willingness:**
 - A. **To do whatever He commands.**
 - B. **To do it with our full strength.**
 - C. **To do it without delay.**

Psalms 119:60 I made haste, and **did not delay To keep Your commandments.**

Conclusion

1. We ought to act on the thought, **"I will hasten to Him, hasten so glad and free."**
2. We ought to be motivated by the kind of attitude that Paul had.
 - A. "Lord, what do you want me to do?" (Acts 9:6).
 - B. "So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also" (Romans 1:15).
3. We can and always should be, those who;

Luke 8:15 "...having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

Invitation

Place

Date

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Lined area for writing the Date.

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Richie Thetford, January 2024 (Based on a lesson by Gary Henry)