WHEN GOD SPEAKS
I Samuel 3

Introduction

Samuel’s call to ministry:
• Samuel was around 12 years old.
• God’s call came in the ordinary circumstances of his life.
• Samuel needed help discerning God’s call.

It is a marvelous thing that God speaks to us.

"God our Maker, knows all about us before we say anything; but we can know nothing about Him unless He tells us. Here, therefore, is a further reason why God speaks to us: not only to move us to do what He wants, but to enable us to know Him so that we may love Him. Therefore God sends His word to us in the character of both information and invitation. It comes to woo us as well as to instruct us; it not merely puts us in the picture of what God has done and is doing, but also calls us into personal communion with the loving Lord Himself." J. I. Packer, Knowing God

I. When God speaks, there is hope.
I Samuel 3:1-10

"The word of the Lord was rare in those days."

Without the word of God, lawlessness increased until everyone did what was right in their own eyes.

He speaks to inform and to invite.
“The lamp of God had not yet gone out.”
There was still hope.

“Samuel did not yet know the Lord.”
Samuel was about to enter into a deeper relationship with God.
Samuel saw and heard the Lord speak to him in a vision.

How does God speak to us?
- The Bible – the written Word.
- His Son – the living Word. Hebrews 1:1-4
- The Holy Spirit
- Visions and dreams
- Other people

II. When God speaks, there is truth.
I Samuel 3:11-18
God tells us what we need to know.

God will carry out his judgment on Eli and his family.
- The penalty for showing contempt for the priesthood was death. Deut. 17:12
- The penalty for willful disobedience to parents was death. Deut. 21:18-21

This was a hard word for Samuel to hear, but it was the truth.
The best thing that Eli did for Samuel was to warn him to tell the truth.
We are just the messenger. It is not our privilege or right to change the message.
Our responsibility is to tell the truth that God has spoken in his Holy Word.
It is especially true in ministry.

“For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, and from his mouth men should seek instruction—because he is the messenger of the LORD Almighty. But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi,” says the LORD Almighty. “So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law.” Malachi 2:7-9

A church isn’t built on music or entertainment. A church is built on the truth of God’s Word.

III. When God speaks, there is power.
I Samuel 3:19-4:1

“The Lord was with Samuel and let none of his words fall to the ground.”

God blessed Samuel’s life and ministry.
Samuel the priest became Samuel the judge and prophet of the Lord.

God’s Word has the power to change all who hear and obey it.
Conclusion:

When God speaks,
• There is hope.
• There is truth.
• There is power.

Will we listen?