

Title: Are You Hearing Voices?

Scripture: I Samuel 3:1-10

Speaker: Vic Redding

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**I Samuel 3:1-10:** *And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child. Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.*

God deals with people and he speaks to them. Vance Havner once said “We are surrounded by birds singing, yet we rarely hear them. If you practice hearing them, eventually one can identify them by the sound they make. If you listen to God with a heart like Samuel’s, you’ll hear the voice of God.” The devil likes a crowded life because it means we are too busy to hear the voice of God. We would have to deny the Lord Jesus if we said that he didn’t still speak to us today. In John 10:27 he said “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:”

**There are four distinct voices that we hear in our life:**

1. **The Voice of Our Conscience:** In John 8 we read of the woman who was guilty of adultery and was about to be stoned. In verse 7 of that chapter it says “So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.” In verse 9 it goes on to say “And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.” These men didn’t cast the stone because they were probably guilty of lying with her or someone else. They knew they could very well be standing up there with her. The first voice we hear is our conscience. There are three reasons for the conscience bothering people:
  - a. We know that the deed we are doing is wrong.
  - b. We know that there’s a better way of living and our conscience convicts us over what we’re about to do.
  - c. We know that if we were to do certain things, they would be displeasing to God.
2. **The Voice of Influence:** This voice is often disturbing because people do not like to hear that they are responsible for the way others live. We don’t want to be accountable for other’s actions. The voice of influence reminds you of your influence on others. Romans 14:7 “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.” There are two kinds of influence - conscious and unconscious.
  - a. **Unconscious Influence:** John 20 describes John and Peter at the sepulchre. John outruns Peter and beats him to the grave, however, Peter goes in first to look around. Immediately after, John runs in to see too. Peter had an influence on John.
  - b. **Conscious Influence:** These influences affect the way others behave based on our actions.

There is a voice of influence that declares that we are responsible for the actions of others. We need to think about this. Others are watching us and how we behave. They’re watching how we respond to situations and troubles that come on our lives.

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3. **The Voice of Wisdom and Reasoning:** The voice of wisdom speaks of the value of your soul. Lost people don't understand the value of their soul. They don't comprehend the price that was paid in order to save their soul. The voice of wisdom also speaks of the foolishness of spiritual death. There are people who do not fear death or spending eternity in hell. Ezekiel 18 describes God talking about how he doesn't want to see souls die and go to hell. In verse 32 of the same chapter it says *"For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."* God does not want the lost to die in sin and it's up to us to create the spirit of wisdom in order for others to come to Christ.
4. **The Voice of God:** How important is it for us to hear him? This is essential for every Christian. Revelation 3:20 says *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* There are things that will hinder us from hearing the voice of God. How and what will help us hear him?
  - a. Spend time in prayer and fellowship with him. Then once you've made your requests known, be still and listen.
  - b. Pick up his word every day. Pray over the scriptures for what he would have you read and gain from what you read.
  - c. Understand that people who know God can give you Godly counsel. They can help you hear from God by giving you counsel.