

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

The trouble with nearly everybody who prays is that he says “Amen” and runs away before God has a chance to reply. Listening to God is far more important than giving him our ideas. —Frank Laubach

In today’s reading, Eli gives Samuel three definite things to do so that he is ready to take a call from the Lord: “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening’” (v. 9).

LIE DOWN: Samuel is much like the rest of us. He is so busy running around that he hardly knows where he is going. Up and down, up and down Samuel pops, racing to Eli’s side every time he thinks he hears the old man calling him. Eli’s advice to “lie down” is a way of saying “let go.” Lying down made Samuel surrender his being to a force bigger than he. Samuel’s previous jumping up and down was his attempt to remain in control of the strange, somewhat unnerving encounter he was experiencing. What Eli was really advocating was for Samuel to “Trust the Spirit.”

LISTEN UP: The second part of Eli’s advice to Samuel is implied when he begins to describe what Samuel should do “if he calls you.” In order to hear that call, Samuel must be listening. In order for all of us to have a vision of God, we must use our ears.

Before Samuel could become God’s mouthpiece, he had to become an ear, carefully cocked towards the divine, sensitive to the faintest rustle in the night. There are times when all we hear is static, but like a radio we need to “stay tuned” and learn how to be capable of reception at any moment.

TALK BACK: If God had been interested only in companionship, the work of creation would have come to a screeching halt after dogs came into the world. Dogs will come when you call, lie at your feet, go on long walks with you, and above all, show you unconditional, unmerited devotion.

But God was not satisfied with mere *companionship*. *God wanted a relationship*. And so God created human beings. Relationships require an intentional exchange of ideas and emotions between both parties. If God had simply wanted Samuel to become an oracle for the divine message, there is no reason for the divine hesitation that occurred after each of God’s first three calls to Samuel. Eli’s counsel to Samuel is to “speak up” when the voice comes again to him.

What God wanted was an answer.

God waits for us to respond, to question, even challenge the divine word that comes to us.

—Adapted from HomileticsOnline.com by Timothy Merrill. Used by permission.

Prayer: Sometimes I forget, O God, that you want to be in relationship with me. Help me to lie down, listen up and talk back. Amen.

*Blessings,
Leisa & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** John 4-6
- Monday:** 1 Kings 17-19
- Tuesday:** 1 Kings 20-22
- Wednesday:** 2 Kings 1-3
- Thursday:** 2 Kings 4-6
- Friday:** 2 Kings 7-10
- Saturday:** Psalms 55-57

Verse to Remember

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’” —John 6:35

FIVE & FOUR

Directions: Each nonsense word below contains a five-letter word and a four-letter word whose letters have been mixed, *but the left-to-right order has not been changed*. When you’re done, you should be able to read the two-word answer to the clue by reading down the letters in the squares and the letters in the circles. We have provided some help throughout.

JAILGLOST = A L O T + I G S

SOUPCURTH = S +

SOBBIERAS = S +

SWINELOWD = W +

CLUE: CHANGES IN CARS

June 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Answer: LUBE JOBS; allot + jigs; spurt + ouch; sober + bias; wield + snow. **TRIVIA QUIZ!**
 1. World Wide Web; 2. 50 meters; 3. Germany, Italy, and Japan; 4. Australia; 5. octagon; 6. Ferdinand Magellan; 7. Samsung; 8. horse; 9. Marie Curie; 10. Hinduism; 11. 1989; 12. Amelia Earhart; 13. brown

TRIVIA QUIZ! GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. What does “www” stand for in a website browser?
2. How long is an Olympic swimming pool (in meters)?
3. What countries made up the original Axis powers in World War II?
4. Which country do cities of Perth, Adelaide & Brisbane belong to?
5. What geometric shape is generally used for stop signs?
6. Who named the Pacific Ocean?
7. What is the name of the biggest technology company in South Korea?
8. Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
9. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize (in 1903)?

10. Worship of Krishna is observed by which religious faith?
11. Demolition of the Berlin wall separating East and West Germany began in what year?
12. Who was the first woman pilot to fly solo across the Atlantic?
13. What is the rarest M&M color?