



THE PEOPLE OF GOD – SERIES 4

Bible Reading Plan, January - March 2020

Samuel, the man who heard God

1 Samuel 3:1-21

- How did Samuel learn to hear God's voice?
- How can we learn to hear Jesus today?



Samuel's context

Dark times for Israel who had made it into the Promised Land but...

- Fell into idolatry (Judges 3:1-6)
- No king = no law??? (Judges 21:25)
 - “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes”
 - Even the High Priest's sons were scoundrels (1 Sam 2:12)
- Benjamin despised & nearly wiped out (Judges 20)
 - Yet the king would be a Benjamite! (1 Samuel 9-11)
- Jabesh-Gilead despised & wiped out (Judges 21)
 - Yet the king would come to their rescue (1 Samuel 11)
- Feeling despised? God is with you!



God Speaks

The voice of the Lord was rare (1 Samuel 3:1), yet...

- The Lord is speaking
 - Not always an audible voice
 - Often through creation (Psalm 19:1-4, Romans 1:20)
- So why do we struggle to hear him?
 - Is the fault with the transmitter or receiver?
- How do we position ourselves to hear?



Samuel Speaks

What lessons does Samuel teach us?

- He lived in the presence of the Lord (2:18)
 - He grew in stature & favour (2:26)
- He learned from his elders (3:1, 9)
 - Who are we listening to?
- He served and was obedient (3:4)
 - “Here I am” attitude
- He trusted God’s faithfulness (3:19)



Samuel wasn't perfect

God uses ordinary men & women...

- Made his sons judges
 - Joel – Yahweh is God
 - Abijah – Yahweh is my father
- His children were scoundrels
 - Looked for dishonest gain
 - Took bribes
 - Perverted justice
- Percy Walter Earle Barnes' children didn't follow him



What can we learn from Samuel

We can choose to

- Live in the Temple (Ephesians 2:19-22)
 - Start following Jesus
 - Practice his presence
- Learn from our elders
 - Those bearing the fruit we desire
 - Understand God's heart and so be friends (John 15:14-15)
- Lean on God's faithfulness
 - As a servant saying, "Here I am... what would you like to say to me?"
 - Believe "The Lord will not let our words fall to the ground"





*“To bring the life of Jesus
and His kingdom wherever we are”
Ezekiel 47:9*