

## VOICE RECOGNITION

**Opening Remarks:** Comics .... The most intelligent read the funnies

**Main Text:** **Samuel 1: 1-13, 19 -20**

**Key Verse: 1Samuel 3:10** “And the LORD came and called as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel replied, “Speak, your servant is listening.”

Book of Samuel – one of my favorites – I’ve visited 1st & 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel as much as any other place in scripture over the years it’s a treasure trove ... awaiting discovery (Spanish coins)

**Samuel is the last judge** of Israel this book is the transition from era of the Judges to era of Kings in Israel **Four characters stand out in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel – Hannah, Samuel, Saul & David**

**Thomas Carlyle 19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish philosopher, writer and historian said: “The history of the world is but the biography of great men.”**

Presented as biographies ... all four had great influence on the people and times they lived ... but not all in a good way.

The Bible record ... we get to see real them as real people, just like us in the everyday business of living.

But where are our role models today? What direction are we as a nation headed?

So far the **biographical sketch for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** is not too great.

Here are just a few current events from just this past week:

- MINEOLA, N.Y. (AP) — A woman stabbed her 79-year-old mother to death with a kitchen knife
- Times Square photo shoot of topless models – challenged by governor ... saying I remember when ...
- Subway pitchman pleads guilty in eliciting minors for sex and child pornography trafficking
- Scandals – riots –attacks in: schools, theaters, military installations etc. +  
We’re so de sensitized that this news is no longer shocking!

When I began to teach S.S. history books included Alexis de Tocqueville’s *American Exceptionalism*, but over the years revisionist history has crept in ... turning heroes into villains, reducing great leaders such as Washington and Lincoln down to a few lines of meaningless paragraphs.

- Universities that promote godlessness are funded by our government
- while those who teach morality and principles receive nothing

- Main line Universities have dismissed and black listed faculty members who have dared to publish papers on Intelligent Design.

We've got problems that need solutions ... If ever the church needed to step and exert leadership – this is the time!!!

The Message today is Voice Recognition ... hearing God's voice and responding to it

**John 10** - Jesus said – *my sheep know my voice ... I call them by name and they follow me*

Would you recognize His voice if He called to you this morning?

He calls us to stand out to provide leadership for some in larger roles possibly to be preserving salt for a once great government – or less public way in school – family or community

**Daily Bread** *Who Is My Neighbor?* Becoming light and salt in real life practical ways

The character in 1 Samuel I want to key on this morning is Samuel but because one life so impacts another we must look at the incredible influence of the life of Hannah ... a story to herself

Read **1 Samuel 1: 1-13, 19 -20**

<sup>1-2</sup> There once was a man who lived in Ramathaim. He was descended from the old Zuph family in the Ephraim hills. His name was Elkanah. He had two wives. The first was Hannah; the second was Peninnah. Peninnah had children; Hannah did not.

<sup>3-7</sup> Every year this man went from his hometown up to Shiloh to worship and offer a sacrifice to GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, served as the priests of GOD there. When Elkanah sacrificed, he passed helpings from the sacrificial meal around to his wife Peninnah and all her children, but he always gave an especially generous helping to Hannah because he loved her so much, and because GOD had not given her children. But her rival wife taunted her cruelly, rubbing it in and never letting her forget that GOD had not given her children. This went on year after year. Every time she went to the sanctuary of GOD she could expect to be taunted. Hannah was reduced to tears and had no appetite.

<sup>8</sup> Her husband Elkanah said, "Oh, Hannah, why are you crying? Why aren't you eating? And why are you so upset? Am I not of more worth to you than ten sons?"

This verse tells us the whole story: Elkanah had two wives, Peninnah had children; Hannah did not.

Peninnah taunted poor Hannah trying to make her life as miserable as possible, so upset that she couldn't eat of the feast. Like you not eating at a Thanksgiving meal.

Why do some people treat others so badly - especially relatives?

It disgusting what people will do when there is a death in the family that involves inheritance.  
Holy Cow!!!

In Peninnah's case it was insecurity and jealousy – she was jealous Elkanah's devotion to Hannah

<sup>9-11</sup> So Hannah ate. Then she pulled herself together, slipped away quietly, and entered the sanctuary. The priest Eli was on duty at the entrance to GOD's Temple in the customary seat. Crushed in soul, Hannah prayed to GOD and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then she made a vow:

Oh, GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies,  
If you'll take a good, hard look at my pain,  
If you'll quit neglecting me and go into action for me  
By giving me a son,  
I'll give him completely, unreservedly to you.  
I'll set him apart for a life of holy discipline.

“Most prayer begins as Hannah's in pain and with tears” Eugene Peterson

Think about it ... Pain is God's opportunity to accomplish something great.  
We pray with urgency when we or someone we love is in pain or danger.

Hannah's prayer was from her heart – she prayed so fervently that Eli the priest scolded her for being drunk! The poor woman couldn't catch a break!

But God heard that prayer prompted by her pain and used it! **Never underestimate the power of fervent prayer – the demons fear it.**

What Hannah did was completely unconventional:

- She entered the temple without a sacrifice boldly presenting her petition before the Lord
- She used her own words her own voice not an intermediary to pray for her
- That's why Eli thought her drunk

☆Centuries later rabbis used Hanna a the model for authentic replacing sacrifice altogether

<sup>19</sup> Up before dawn, they worshiped GOD and returned home to Ramah. Elkanah slept with Hannah his wife, and GOD began making the necessary arrangements in response to what she had asked. <sup>20</sup> Before the year was out, Hannah had conceived and given birth to a son. She named him Samuel, explaining, “I asked GOD for him.”

⇒ Erin our youngest daughter and husband Gary had tried for 5 years without success to have a baby. With each passing year - well meaning questions like “When are you going to have a baby? Causing increased pain and anguish.

A little more than a year ago, as Jen and I were praying for them, God began to speak to us through scripture –praying separately both were experiencing similar results- our Bibles falling open mysteriously to the same passage again and again.

Jen opened to **Psalm 113:9** “He settles the childless woman in her home as a happy mother of children.”

I opened to **Isaiah 54: 1-3** “Sing, O childless woman, you who have never given birth!

Break into loud and joyful song, O Jerusalem you who have never been in labor.

For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband,” says the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> “Enlarge your house; build an addition. Spread out your home, and spare no expense!

<sup>3</sup> For you will soon be bursting at the seams.

We encouraged her to not lose hope to trust God – but the pain and failure of several miscarriages made it difficult for them. We did not share the verses with her till much later. Sometimes you’re afraid not always sure ... that’s its God and not coincidence or wishful thinking? Voice Recognition

**Erin’s due date is August 28<sup>th</sup>** her baby boy waiting to be born is 7 lbs... here’s his picture.

Handsome kid right? They’ve gotten down to two name choices ... one of them is Samuel

**When makes a promise** – you can take it to the bank ... Psalm 138:2 God honors His Word even above His Name ... But do we recognize the voice so we can grow in our faith while we wait for it????

☆ Hannah kept her promise just as God honored His – she brought him to the temple to live there and to be a dedicated servant to the Lord ... and oh how God used that boy!!!!

Hannah would go on to have three more sons and two daughters.

Jump forward in time with me Samuel is a little older possibly age 11 or 12 when God calls to him

### **1Samuel 3: 1- 10**

“The boy Samuel was serving GOD under Eli’s direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of GOD, where the Chest of God rested.

<sup>4-5</sup> Then GOD called out, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Yes? I’m here.” Then he ran to Eli saying, “I heard you call. Here I am.” Eli said, “I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” And so he did.

<sup>6-7</sup> GOD called again, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, “I heard you call. Here I am.” Again Eli said, “Son, I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.)

<sup>8-9</sup> GOD called again, “Samuel!”—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, “Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am.”

That’s when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, “Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, ‘Speak, GOD. I’m your servant, ready to listen.’” Samuel returned to his bed.

<sup>10</sup> Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, “Samuel! Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Speak. I’m your servant, ready to listen.”

### **Closing:**

Samuel’s life would be so powerful be that its impact still touches us today – this very moment

Samuel would change the course of Israel’s history – He would be the one to initiate and anoint Israel’s greatest king through whom Jesus Messiah/Christ would come

Side Walk Profits song *Live Like That*

Sometimes I think  
What will people say of me  
When I'm only just a memory  
When I'm home where my soul belongs

Translation ... How did I use the time that was given to me? Did I invest my time in ways that would have lasting consequences or fritter it away in trivial pursuits?

How important is one life? How import the way we use out time! How important is it to be able to hear and recognize God’s voice when He calls!