

**Date** : 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
**Theme** : Back to the basics  
**Topic** : How to position ourselves to hear from God? (F.A.S.T)  
**Passage** : 1 Samuel 3:1-10  
**Key verse** : The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, “Samuel! Samuel!” Then Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

## **Introduction**

Last week we learnt that God gives humans a special dignity among all the works of creation when He created us in His divine image. When sin marred this original image, our Lord Jesus came and took our sin on the cross. His own image was marred more than any man’s so as to restore us to God’s image. Our calling then is to mirror God. We are not the originals but the images. Our duty is to use the original – God – as our pattern, and not ourselves. We have been created and saved to serve God’s purpose more than our own.

Today, we will see what happens when God’s people use their God’s given position to serve God’s instead of their own. What can we learn from old Eli and young Samuel about who gets to hear when God speaks/calls?

### **1. A Dull Spiritual climate shuts out God’s voice**

God did not speak to Eli, the appointed high priest. Why?

*...In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions... (1 Sam 3:1)*

#### a) The sins of Eli’s sons

- Treated the offering of God (worship) with contempt. (1 Sam 2:12-17)
- Despised the service of God through prostitution.

*... how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting... (1 Sam 2:22)*

- Question: What is my worship like? Am I acting as if God is not watching or present?

b) The negligence of Eli as a father

- Eli's sons had failed to know the Lord intimately even though their father was anointed high priest.

*... they did not know the Lord... (1 Sam 2:12)*

- Eli had failed to rebuke or do everything he could to correct his two sons' evil behaviour.

*...because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them... (1 Sam 3:13)*

- Question: Do we neglect our role as parents, children, students?

## 2. A Flourishing Spiritual climate hears God's voice

Instead, God spoke to young Samuel, who was ministering to God under Eli. Why?

a) Samuel was Faithful (F.A.S.T)

- Samuel started serving in the temple of God when he was very young.

*...The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli... (1 Sam 3:1)*

- Samuel did not allow the negative culture that he was living in to influence him.

*...And the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favour with the Lord and with people... (1 Sam 2:26)*

- Question: Are we allowing the culture of the world to influence us or are we feeding on God's word regularly so that we not let the negative culture pull us away from God?

b) Samuel was Available (F.A.S.T)

- Samuel set his bed up in the temple (in God's presence) away from the noise.

*... Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was...(1 Sam 3:3)*

- Samuel readily responded when he heard his name being called.

*...And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."...(1 Sam 3:5)*

- Question: Are we spending time in God's presence through worship, prayer, and studying the Bible daily so that we can hear what God is saying to us?

c) Samuel was Submissive (F.A.S.T)

- Samuel grew up in the temple of God, although he knew who God is, but he knew nothing to God as a living Person. He needed someone guidance to lead him to hear God's voice.

*...Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him." (1 Samuel 3: 7)*

- Samuel followed Eli's instructions on how to hear God's voice.

*...So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place...(1 Sam 3:9)*

- Question: Who do I consider myself to be accountable to?

d) Samuel was Teachable (F.A.S.T)

- Samuel did what Eli had ask him to do

*... Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening..."(1 Sam 3:10)*

- Samuel did what God had told him to do, delivering the difficult message to Eli.

*... So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him...(1 Sam 3:18)*

- Question: How is teachable am I towards my parents, mentor, pastor, boss, generally the people God placed in authority over you?

## **Application**

1) Which F.A.S.T habit would I need to cultivate so as to position myself to have a flourishing spiritual climate to hear God's voice daily?

2) How do I make myself available for the Lord?

- Fix a time to hear from the Lord
- Have a plan to mediate on His word
- Be willing to do what God calls me to do – praying for friends daily and show act of love to my contacts