

# 1 Samuel 3:1-10 “Holy Headphones”

Rd 1-11

**The Phrase God spoke to me is one that causes some people a great deal of consternation.**

A) They hear a believer say: The other day God spoke to me and I .....

B) They think *what do you mean God spoke to you* – did you hear an audible voice? – what are you talking about?

C) I know some believers who would say: **I have never heard God personally speak to me.**

**I think most of us if we were honest – we would love to pick up our phones each morning and hear from Him.**

A) Wouldn't that be awesome - Yes – each day just spell it out

B) But God doesn't do that – One of the reasons is this - **He is interested in a relationship with us!** –

1) He doesn't want to give us instructions once a day via a recording,

2) **He wants to converse with us throughout the day.**

C) He wants to be a part of our daily lives.

**For some of you that is such a foreign concept - - your whole idea of God has been one of Him being distant**

A) Not able to know him – but one day you will answer to Him.

B) But God is personal – He wants us to know Him and live in relationship with Him

1) John 17:3 This is eternal life .....

C) Why He sent Jesus – THAT IS THE GOSPEL – Good news – You can know God –

**The questions we want to consider today are:**

❖ **Who does God talk to?**

❖ **What does His voice sound like?**

❖ **How do we get ourselves into the right posture to hear his voice?**

A) V.1 **The word of the Lord was rare** – other translations – precious – it was scarce – God wasn't speaking to anyone

B) God speaking was rare – not because God didn't want to speak but because no one was listening.

1) This is still the time frame of the Judges when everyone was doing what was right in his own eyes.

C) **In fact Eli's response is interesting to me.**

**Cc) He recognized that Samuel is hearing from God** –

1) It made me wonder Since Eli was the High Priest if God had spoke to Eli in the past.

D) But God is not speaking to him now. Why not? Eli is the chief spiritual leader in Israel at this time.

E) But Eli is tolerating the rebellion in his own sons. – learn more about that on Wed night

1)Nutshell - His boys were taking advantage of God's people and doing horrible things and **Eli – was looking the other way!!!!!!**

**So God is not speaking here to Eli – Principle we see throughout scripture**

A)The Bible is very clear – sin breaks intimacy

B)Adam & Eve – naked and unashamed

C)After fall they know – naked and they are ashamed –

1)Sin destroys intimacy and innocence

**So Here we see that God comes looking for this young man Samuel. This gives us some insight into #1 Who does God speak to?**

A)A Child

B) Here in Chapter 3 We have this young man named Samuel – He lives with the High Priest Eli – serves in the Tabernacle.

**Bb)Awesome story about how He ends up there – Learn about that on Wed night**

C) But the readers digest version is that His mom – an awesome **godly woman was barren – that culture – Ridiculed & – cursed by God**

D)She prayed – God would give her a son – and if he did she in turn would dedicate him to the Lord –

E)Samuel was the Result of that prayer – She gave him to the priest

**Josephus the Jewish historian writes that Samuel was 12-13 years old at this time –**

A)The same age as Jesus was when He went up to Jerusalem to be Bar Mitzvahed to become a son of the Torah. – There he dialogued with the Rabbi's

B)So Samuel is living with **Eli the priest – he is working in the Tabernacle**

1)Setup boy – errand boy – carrying oil – cleaning up

C)But this is who God speaks to – a child.

**Now before you think -- That rules me out – I haven't been a child for a long time!**

A)Remember the Words of Jesus – He said to His disciples Matthew 18:3

**“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”**

B)Jesus was telling His disciples and us that a key to the spiritual life is having child like faith.

C)It is not hard at **all for Kids to believe in a personal God -**

1)A God who really cares about them – Why kids are such great prayer warriors – always have prayer request

**D)Not self sufficient enough to think they can solve the problem – We need to pray for this ..... aunt betty to my pet turtle.**

1)Many of us who are adults – would not ask prayer for a pet turtle – God has bigger things to deal with than that. **NOT KIDS**

**I wonder how many other things we fail to bring to God for the same reason. –**

A) Even though He says – know the number of hairs on your head

B) More important than Flowers he clothes and the animals –

1) His thoughts out number the sand.

**Kids have a simple faith! They believe not just in a personal God but a Big God who can do anything!**

A) Nothing too hard – for God - Not afraid to pray big prayers!

B) Bible college class assignment – Why do you believe in a big God!

1) Great theological answers – Genesis 1:1 – Creation – Resurrection

C) Also Personal: **“I believe in a big God because I believe in a little Chelsea.”**

1) **“I believe in a big God because if I didn’t I would die of small faith.”**

2) **“I believe in a big God because He has done big things in my heart.”**

D) My point is this: **A key to hearing God’s voice is having childlike faith, believing that God is big enough to hear you amidst the millions of other prayers being lifted up to Him at the same time.**

E) And believing that **He is personal enough** to respond and that He is interested in the everyday affairs of your life.

**That leads us to consider the 2<sup>nd</sup> Question - #2 How does God speak?**

A) Samuel obviously hears an audible voice – but I would venture to say that is not the norm.

**B) I for one have never heard God speak to me in an audible voice.**

1) I know very few people who have ever heard God speak to them in an audible voice.

C) So How does God speak?

**Obvious way is through His word!**

A) Personal daily devotions – Reading – God by His spirit is speaking to your heart – Truth He wants you to grab a hold of

B) A PROMISE HE WANTS YOU TO EMBRACE

C) Conviction – something that needs to change in your life.

**You come to church in a setting like this – Myself or Jason is preaching and God is speaking to your heart!**

A) Holy Spirit is confirming things in your heart –

B) Often times – We are speaking and the Holy Spirit starts ministering to your heart - takes you down a path.

1) Reminds you of something you read this week.

C) You get this glazed look on your face – (Some of you daydreaming – but others God is working

**D) You come up afterwards and say: God was really speaking to me through you today – You start telling me what God was saying.**

1) I realize – I didn’t talk about any of that - Smile - At some point in the sermon – Holy Spirit started talking to your heart!

E) So God speaks through His word – but He can also speak to our hearts

1) **But What does HIS VOICE SOUND LIKE?**

There is a scene in the life of the Prophet Elijah that gives us some insight into the answer to that question.

A) After – His big show down on Mount Carmel with the 450 prophets of Baal

B) Queen Jezebel is mad – because through Elijah God had just wiped out all her sacred prophets.

1) So even though Elijah stood up for God in front of 450 prophets – He is running from this wicked queen.

C) Less about Elijah being a wimp and more about how Scary this woman was. **Cruella De Vil, Ursula, Maleficent**- all rolled into one.

D) SO ELIJAH Heads for the mountains to hide out in this cave. Here is what happens.

1) **GOD PURSUES ELIJAH**

While in the cave the scriptures tell us that there was an earthquake that shook the cave – But God wasn't in the earthquake.

A) Following the earthquake, there was a mighty rushing wind, once again God wasn't in the wind.

B) Finally there was a fire – Elijah could see and feel the fire – but God wasn't in the fire.

C) But then God came and spoke to Elijah in a whisper – *a still small voice* 1) The Hebrew makes it very clear – it was a calmness or a whisper.

D) Not absolutely sure if – It was something that Elijah actually heard or something that He felt in his heart – his spirit.

**HERE IS WHAT GOD SAID TO ELIJAH?**

A) Elijah – what are you doing? Why are you here? – Don't belong here

B) Some of you have been hearing the still small voice of the Lord in your head saying the same thing to you.

1) Living in compromise – involved something you shouldn't be

C) Sulking in self pity – not moving forward or getting involved – The Lord is saying to you –

**What are you doing? Why are you here?**

1) I have got so much more for you

**Here is also what is so fascinating about that story**

A) God wasn't in the earthquake – the wind or the fire

B) For most of us our natural tendency when – our life gets shaken is to think – God is trying to tell me something.

Bb) God is shaking up my life to get my attention – And you know there are times when he will do that for sure.

1) But life is filled with shakings – Your boyfriend breaks up with you.

**You lose your job, you get sick – you get in an accident.**

C) That often times is just life – Not God, although he allowed it to happen, but he wasn't the cause – it wasn't the devil.

**Life happens to all of us. – Fires start – the winds of trials blow – Shake ups happen!**

A)But that is not God’s way of talking to us!

B)In the same way – When I was dating my wife Denise – I didn’t throw bricks through her bed room window with notes attached.

1)I didn’t start her car on fire – to get her attention.

C)**GOD OFTEN SPEAKS IN A WHISPER** – Quietness of His spirit speaking to our hearts -

D)We see this in this Story with Samuel – God’s voice is tender – Samuel

1)He doesn’t come booming – SAMUEL - Not loud and angry – SAMUEL

2) Shaking the bed – Samuel wakes up Traumatized - freaking out scared

E)No it is tender – Samuel

**My wife loves to sleep and I am her personal alarm clock –**

A)Don’t scream at her to get her up – don’t pull the covers off – turn on loud music{ Effective – but she would not like that! At all!

B)Happy wife – Happy life –

C)Wake her up – whisper – Good morning sweet heart – little peck on the cheek{ Honey the day needs you – we need you –

**God is tender here and He is patient**

A)Calls 4 times – not 3 strikes and your out – God doesn’t say after the first two Oh Vey – what are we going to do with this kid, he is obviously not ready

B)He is tender and patient – For some of you God has been whispering for quite some time – tender and patient –

1)Pursuing you – wooing you - But the Bible does warn – my spirit will not always strive with man.

**God is a whisperer!**

A)Oh He can be loud if he wants to – Psalmist said his voice thunders on the waters -

B)But to those He loves – those who are seeking him – Whisper

C)His Holy Spirit speaking to our hearts!

1)Whisper – calmness – a peace – a strong impression – God communicating to your Spirit.

**Note this: Holy Spirit is never going to contradict God’s word!**

A)Never tell you – ok to lie – or you are the exception – you can live with your girlfriend.

B)Ok for you to cheat on your taxes!

C)I say that because – I have had people tell me crazy things the Holy Spirit told them or gave them a peace about -

1)But Problem was – those things totally contradicted God’s word!

Jesus said in John 16:13 “when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.”

D)Jesus saying when the Spirit speaks it is going to line up with what you have already heard from Me!

So #1 Who does God speak to? **Childlike faith.**

#2 How does God speak to us? **His Word, His Spirit to our hearts**

**3<sup>rd</sup> things consider - How do we get ourselves into the right posture to hear Him speak? Few things we can learn from Samuel.**

A) Samuel was separated!

B) Samuel was living a life that was devoted to God!

1) When His mom gave him to live with the priest it meant that Samuel was not going to live a normal life – **NORMAL KID!**

C) Samuel wasn't just separated from the normal life of Israel – He was separated unto God.

**God calls us as believers to live separated lives as well! 2 Corinthians 6:17**

*“Come out from among them  
And be separate, says the Lord.”*

A) Sometimes young people/ old people hear that and think – God doesn't want me to have any fun! -

B) Called to be separate and different – everyone in my school is going to think I am a freak.

**C) Their whole Christian faith – becomes this thing about Do's and Don'ts - This is what I can do this is what I can't do.**

**1) BUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT SO MUCH ABOUT DUTY – IT IS ABOUT DEVOTION.**

**WE NEED TO READ THE REST OF THAT VERSE!**

*Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”*

**God is saying: I am not only calling you out of something – but I am calling you UNTO something!**

A) Calling you to live in an intimate relationship with me.

B) Think of it this way: When I married my wife **Denise 27 years ago – I said on that day – my Vows –**

1) I would keep myself unto Denise as long as we both shall live. – I've been faithful to those vows for 27 years

C) I knew the day that I said that – that I meant it – I was never going to have a romantic relationship with another woman.

1) Prior to that I had dated several women – But that all ended July 12 of 1986

**D) I vowed my heart to be a ONE WOMAN MAN! When I said those words it wasn't a matter of duty! –**

A) Bummer I can't date other women, - Ball and chain, Life is going to be boring now – but hey it is the right thing to do!

B) No it wasn't duty – It was DEVOTION!

1) I was communicating to Denise – I don't want anyone else! – You

C) I know I married up – out of my league – I was just glad that this godly hot chick – who I loved being with – **WANTED TO BE WITH ME!**

**Listen when you realize that the living God – made you – this world – Awesome and All powerful, - Sovereign – YET PERSONAL**

A) Says I want to have a relationship with you – I want you to be mine

B) He is calling you to be DEVOTED to Him – and live in an intimate relationship with Him –  
1) **Changes everything** – Not about Duty – Devotion!

C) Some of you struggle in your walk – because you have never progressed beyond it being the  
“**RIGHT THING TO DO**” – HEAVEN

1) The Living God is wanting to have a relationship with you and speak to your heart – Regularly

### **So Samuel was Separated!**

A) Samuel was also in a Quiet place –

B) Acts Chapter 10 – Peter gets a radical revelation that God wanted him to take the gospel to the Gentiles

1) It happened – when Peter got away by himself - Roof top at lunch

C) **Lunch time in Jewish culture back then was busy** – preparations going on people gathering together

1) Peter goes up on the roof top patio – Quiet place, Quiet time, Quiet heart

**Sometimes getting away: Place where you can Quiet your heart in a Quiet place in order to spend some quiet time with God is Key to hearing His voice**

A) We live in a world of so much noise and distractions

B) Smart phones – iPods , TV’s and stereos – there are all of these frequencies constantly moving through the airways.

C) Right now Fox News, ESPN, CNN, NBC – all of those airways are flowing through this room,

1) But you are not hearing the voice of **Sean Hannity or Charles Barkley** because you have separated yourself today - Come hear from the Lord

**We need to learn to separate ourselves from the Distractions – to learn to hear God’s voice!**

A) **HOLY HEADPHONES** - Morning Devos –

B) Once a month – prayer day – You and Jesus

C) We learn to hear God’s voice speaking to our hearts – by setting aside time in a quiet place where –

Cc) He has our full focused undivided attention.

1) The more we do that the more recognizable His voice becomes -

D) Proverbs 2:1 “**Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.**”

E) Think of it in terms of you’re Tuned into 88.9FM – 4pm – Basics of life

1) But mind is somewhere else – Not listening – CONCENTRATE

Back when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, **a young man applied for a job as a Morse Code operator.**

Answering an ad in the newspaper, he went to the office address that was listed.

When he arrived, **he entered a large, busy office filled with noise and clatter, including the sound of the telegraph in the background.**

A sign on the receptionist's counter instructed job applicants to fill out a form and wait until they were summoned to enter the inner office.

The young man filled out his form and sat down with the seven other applicants in the waiting area. After a few minutes, the young man stood up, crossed the room to the door of the inner office, and walked right in.

Naturally the other applicants perked up, wondering what was going on. They muttered among themselves that they hadn't heard any summons yet.

They assumed that the young man who went into the office made a mistake and would be disqualified.

Within a few minutes, however, the employer escorted the young man out of the office and said to the other applicants, "Gentlemen, thank you very much for coming, but the job has just been filled."

The other applicants began grumbling to each other, and one spoke up saying, "Wait a minute, I don't understand. He was the last to come in, and we never even got a chance to be interviewed. Yet he got the job. That's not fair!"

The employer said, "I'm sorry, but all the time you've been sitting here, the telegraph has been ticking out the following message in Morse Code:

'If you understand this message, then come right in. The job is yours.' None of you heard it or understood it. This young man did. The job is his."

**That young man had his antenna tuned to that sound of the telegraph –**

A) He was able to catch it amidst the noise of the business around him

B) We live in a world that is full of busyness and clatter, like that office.

1) The more time we spend listening to the Lord and allowing Him to speak to our hearts –

C) The better we will become at distinguishing His voice amidst all the distractions.

**One More thing:**

A) Not only was Samuel Separated – In a quiet place but Samuel was also Responsive

B) God called that 4<sup>th</sup> time – Samuel said – "speak Lord your servant is listening!"

1) Samuel was submitted himself to the Lord

C) Oswald Chambers said in his devotional "My Utmost for His Highest"

*"Get into the habit of saying, 'Speak, Lord,' and life will become a romance."*

**A Romance, what does that mean?**

A) In the same way there is certain Chemistry that occurs between two people who are in love.

**B) They start to finish each others sentences and they think the same things at that same time.**

1) Part of falling in love – Such fun when that happens

C) Well when we get in the habit – each day prayer – pick up your Bible - Speak Lord your servant is listening

1) And You actually respond to what He is saying –

D) Life will get exciting – GOD IS GOING TO BE WORKING IN YOUR LIFE BIG TIME



**AND**

The more you respond – the more He is going to talk to you

A) **SEE IN YOU A WILLING VESSEL !**

B) That is the problem a lot of us face if we are honest – **we don't want to hear the Lord speak to us.**

C) Afraid we are not going to like what He is going to say!

1) Break up with girlfriend

D) Or when you **want to quit your job** – He says – no hang in there. {**Not what I want to Hear Lord!**}

E) He says **call that person** and tell them you forgive them

**We want to be comfortable – Afraid – God might tell us to do something that is uncomfortable.**

A) **WE WANT TO TALK TO GOD ON**

**OUR TERMS – NOT HIS**

B) **Lord I am heading to the track** – tell me who to bet on and I will split the proceeds With you!

C) People go from one counselor to another – looking **TELL THEM WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR**

D) **SAME WITH GOD** – GOD – I will listen – but you better tell me what I want to hear!

E) Misses the heart of a Loving God – **WHO GAVE HIS SON – So you could be FORGIVEN**

1) **LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM**

God talks to those who are childlike enough in their faith to seek him

A) He talks – {**Sometimes Audible**} - Mainly through His word – By His spirit

C) He talks to us when we are

- ❖ **Separated unto Him** –
- ❖ When we find **a quiet place**
- ❖ When we are **responsive** -

**What is God saying to you right now?**

A) Are you willing to obey?

B) **Respond ? – Doors open – God is going to work**

C) Here today: Don't know Jesus – or backslidden – not walking with Him –

D) He is inviting you into a holy romance –

1) Open your heart to Him today

E) Start saying:

**Speak Lord your servant is listening!**