

Taking Worship into your Week
7.19.2020 – Now I See - #1 - If we invite the Lord to speak. . .

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 3:1-10

The boy Samuel ministered before the Lord under Eli. In those days the word of the Lord was rare; there were not many visions.

One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the Lord, where the ark of God was. Then the Lord called Samuel.

Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.

Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

"My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."

Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord: The word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him.

A third time the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me."

Then Eli realized that the Lord was calling the boy. 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.

The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!"

Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Questions for reflection:

1. Imagine God is willing to speak with you audibly about your future; what would you like to know about, and why?
2. What was God's specific vision for Israel? See Gen. 12:1-5 and Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12.
3. Who is the central character of God's vision for Israel (and the world)? Look at vs 7 of our Samuel passage; who is "the word of the Lord?"
4. In vs 1 of our Samuel passage, the author notes the word of the Lord was rare and there were not many visions. What specific situations and conditions are present in a congregation when the Word of God is "rare" and there is no "vision?"