1 SAMUEL 3:1-10: When the Lord called;

- 1. "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," was the answer of Samuel. In this answer we have, as in a nutshell, the history of a child of God.
 - 1. THE LORD SPEAKING. How God speaks to us: 1. God speaks to us in nature. Psalms 19:1.2

2. God speaks to us in providence.

(1) Accidents and the events of life, the broken and maimed body wrecked and ruined for life.

(2) A man is going on as usual: there is a heart failure, a fatal accident and death is at hand. Heb. 9:27

- (3) Some times men will not be warned by death itself. They are not Christians but they weep over the dead body of a loved one and go right on in sin.
- 3. God speaks to us by his Wrod.

(1) He spoke directly to Samuel. 1 Sam. 3:1-13

(2) "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son" (Heb. 1:2).

THE CHILD HEARING.

- 1. At first he was mistaken about the voice that he heard. We should know that the ear is one of the main gateways of the soul. We must be careful:
 - (1) "What ye hear" (Mark 4:24). (2) "How ye hear" (Luke 8:18).

3. THE CHILD OBEYING. His obedience was:

1. PROMPT. He answered immediately (1 Sam. 3:4-10).
(1) God's call may be obeyed, or it may be disobeyed. Paul's first question, "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6).

(2) "And Peter arose and went with them" (Acts 9:39).
2. HEARTY. "And he rang unto Eli" (L Sam. 3:5)

(1) "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men" (Col. 3:23).

A. Includes the rational and emotional elements meaning "From the soul." / DO IT, WORK FROM OUT OF THE SOUL.

B. Samuel did serve grudgingly or murmuringly but gladly and readily.

3. LIFE-LONG.

- (1) Samuel's motto all through his long life seems to have been: "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."
- 2. SAMUEL ASLEEP. L Sam. 3:3: "And Samuel was laid down to sleep." Samuel was unconscious of God's presence for Samuel was asleep. This would not be applied to Samuel but let us learn that there is:

1. THE SLEEP OF CARELESSNESS.

1. There was the lying down again of Samuel.

1. In the case of most people, the lying down again is fatal.

2. THE SLEEP OF SIN.

1. The sleep of sin is death (Rom. 6:23; James 1:15).

3. THE SLEEP OF SECURITY.

1. "For when they shall-say peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (1 Thess. 5:3).

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3. IN SAMUEL'S ANSWER TO GOD'S CALL WE SEE THREE THINGS:

1. OBEDIENCE

1. Samuel had a happy start in life.

(1) He must have learned obedience at home for he had pious parents before him...Parents who were devoted themselves to God and who devoted Samuel to God.

(2) His mother said, "I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life" (1 Sam. 1:11).

(3) His father went up to worship God before Samuel (1 Sam. 1:3).

1. Each time Samuel heard the call he got up and went enquired regarding the call.

3. PATIENCE

1. Samuel never complained, or said this is the last time. I am not going to do any more. Samuel must have known:

(1) That it is not safe to count on more than one call.

- (2) That it can never be safe to neglect the first call. He may have known:
- (3) That was what Lot's wife did, and that she never got another chance.

4. THE LAST LESSON:

1. If we wish to learn we must present to the Lord a teachable spirit.

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