

"TALKING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE LISTENING"

"Speak, Lord: for thy servant heareth." I Sam. 3:10
(read vs. 1-10)

Introduction.

People get into lots of trouble by too much talking.
Silence is golden.

James warns us about the evil of the tongue.

An important part of being a good conversationalist
is being a good listener.

Impetuous Peter and his outspoken tongue.

We learn, not by talking, but by listening.

I. An Important Part of Prayer is Listening to God as well as Talking to Him.

1. Prayer as petition - Grant - fighting his last campaign
with cancer at Mt. McGregor.

2. Prayer as intercession - (Lit: "approaching" the King
Godless seaman who prayed, "God, I haven't asked you for anything
with a petition")

3. Prayer as supplication - request
Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6

4. Prayer as Thanksgiving - (Webb, #100; Pages (at Spanish King,
who never asked God's blessing on or gave thanks for meals.)

5. Prayer as adoration - (Webb, #343; "You didn't get
nearest your mother when you went to ask her for a dime
did you?"

6. Prayer as Receiving
Mr. 11:24

7. Prayer as Listening.

A. Samuel said, "Speak, Lord: for thy servant heareth."
Many professing Christians say, "Listen, Lord:
for thy servant speaketh."

B. "Prayer is the soul's sincere desire

Uttered or unexpressed:

The simple listening of the ear

When none but God is near."

C. There are answers that are beyond our answers
God did not answer Paul's prayer for the
removal of the thorn in the flesh as Paul
requested. But Paul listened and heard the
Lord say: "My grace is sufficient for thee."
(2nd Cor. 12:9)

II. The Discipline of Listening to God.

1. Keep quiet before Him

A. There was a little girl who said about a ranting preacher praying in such a loud, shouting voice:

"Mother, don't you think that if he lived nearer to God he wouldn't have to talk so loud?"

B. "Mid' all the traffic of the ways,
Turmoils without, within,
Make in my heart a quiet place,
And come and dwell therein;
A little shrine of quietness
All sacred to Thyself,
Where Thou shalt all my soul possess,
And I may find myself."

2. Wait upon God.

Isa. 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

Ps. 27:14, "Wait on the Lord, and he shall strengthen thy heart."

3. Keep in Contact with Him.

*Listen with expectation; expect Him to speak;
Expect to hear Him; use your faith.*

4. Listen with understanding.

Heb. 5:11, "ye are dull of hearing, for you are as babes, drinking milk and not strong meat...."

You ought to be teachers, but you need for one to teach you the first principles of the oracles of God!
must be perceptive.

5. Listen with ^{thoughtful} attention "Heed"

Isaiah (in ch. 42:20) spoke of some who opened the ear but heard not.

6. Listen with intention to obey.

A. Even when the message is unpleasant,
(as in Samuel's case), vs. 11-14

B. Even when the path of duty is difficult,
v. 18, "It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good."

sin hinders prayer - "Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

"I looked to Heaven, and tried to pray,

But on ever a prayer had quest,

*A wicked whisper came, and made
My heart as dry as dust."*

616 to med. Co Hosp. Ch. Airline Mar '68

Feb. Mem. 10/30/55

*WAC Chapel - April 78
sent to Ch. Augsburg,
Nov. 1964*

H.C. 45, Ft. Ben. 16 July 61;

TALKING WHEN YOU SHOULD BE LISTENING

I Samuel 3:1-10

INTRODUCTION: The Bible tells us a great story about a young man who had learned to listen at the right time.

Samuel was himself born in answer to his mother's prayer, and he had been dedicated to God from infancy.

Once while he was in the temple with the aged priest Eli he heard a remarkable voice and recognized it as the voice of God. He said, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

Samuel lived in a time much like our time in that most people had drifted far from any concern for God's laws or God's will. Only a small percentage of people were deeply concerned to listen for God's voice or to carry out his will in society.

It is remarkable that it was a young man, possibly a boy only about 12 years old, who had been so trained in the service of God that he could respond when the crucial hour arrived.

Many people are never so disciplined in a religious life as to be ready for such a revelation as came to Samuel.

God may be speaking in a hundred ways all around them, but they do not hear or do not recognize it.

As Elizabeth Barrett Browning said,

"Earth's crammed with heaven,

And every common bush afire with God;

And only he who sees takes off his shoes--

The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries.

But Samuel not only listened to God's voice, but he responded to it.

An important part of listening to the Lord is responding to him in faithfulness.

The call of God to respond to truth, to make moral decisions,

and to learn what our duty is, is known as a call of God only when we answer it and respond to it.

Illustration of Chauntecleer the
rooster and Russell the fox
who was tricked into opening
his mouth to boast,
and the rooster flew up into
the tree top & escaped.
The fox said, "Many a plague
be on all those who chatter
that should hold their tongues."